

*Jun.*  
**BOERHAAVE'S**  
*Medical Correspondence;*

Containing

1486.7.15

**The various SYMPTOMS**

Of

**CHRONICAL Distempers;**

**The PROFESSOR'S Opinion, Method of  
Cure, and Remedies.**

To which is added,

**BOERHAAVE'S PRACTICE**  
in the Hospital at *LEYDEN*, with his  
Manner of Instructing his Pupils in the Cure  
of Diseases.

**L O N D O N:**

Printed for JOHN NOURSE, at the *Lamb*, opposite  
*Katherine Street* in the Strand.


**MDCCLV.**





*Lord Viscount Powerscourt.*

# P R E F A C E.

 *THE Collection of Letters, here offered to the public, must prove entertaining and useful. They are chiefly Histories or Descriptions of Chronic Disorders, some of them very uncommon. The late Doctor HERMAN BOERHAAVE was consulted in all the Cases, and we have in the following Sheets his Reasonings, on the several Symptoms. It may be justly said of this great Man, that he reduced the Art of Physic to its genuine Simplicity, and by his noble Improvements of it, has done Mankind the greatest Service, as well as gained to himself an immortal Name.*

*These Letters were copied from the Originals sent to the Doctor, and Care taken to make no Alterations; this must appear*

to every one, who is a Judge of his Style, and Method of Cure in the like Cases.

'Tis well worth our Notice, that FRICTIONS are so much recommended by Boerhaave in these Disorders; on this one Article he often lays the Stress of the Cure, which must appear to many as something trifling, not to say, ridiculous. What great Service, they may ask, can be expected from rubbing the Body a thousand Times if you will, in order to remove an obstinate Disease?

To answer this, we may recollect that in all Chronical Cases there are these two Defects, to which the Physician ought to pay a principal Regard, viz. the Solids have lost their proper Tone, and there are Obstructions in the Viscera: The Intention then must be to strengthen the too much relaxed Solids, and remove the Obstruction. For this Purpose Hippocrates recommends Friction, and explains its Conditions and Effects in these Words \* strong Friction (says he) braces,

Ex tunc xxi. interm.

gentle



## P R E F A C E.

V

gentle Friction loosens; much Friction diminishes, and moderate Friction increases the Flesh. The great Master gave no further Explication, as he often wrote in such a Manner, as to be understood by those only, who had made a Progress in the Art; But Galen has left us a most elegant Comment on these Words, wherein he sufficiently explains Hippocrates his Sense.

“ Soft or gentle Friction (says he) loosens or resolves those Parts that are braced or constricted. Those Parts are said to be braced or constricted (by Hippocrates) that do not easily move, by Reason of some Dryness, Cold, Inflammation, Schirrhus, Tension, Repletion or Weight †. No Words can more properly express the Nature of obstruction, than these do. Long after the Time of Hippocrates, when this Remedy was much in Vogue, the Physicians began to mark the different Sorts of Frictions, their Degrees, Duration, and Parts of the Body that

† In his second Book, of Preserving Health, where he disputes at large on this Matter against Theon and others.

afflict

were

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were to be rubbed in the several Diseases, and likewise other Circumstances. They claimed the Glory of all these Things to themselves, as Inventors and Improvers in the Art; either through a real or pretended Ignorance of Hippocrates his Writings, who had delivered the Sum of this Doctrine many Ages before. For Example, Aesclepiades, as we learn from Celsus, spent the greatest Part of a Treatise in this very Argument, of which he claimed the Invention; and as Celsus himself acknowledges, he gave in it more full and distinct Precepts, where and how Friction was to be applied, than had been done by any of the Ancients. This Treatise perished with his other Writings, to the great Prejudice of the Art; 'tis true indeed, that through a foolish Itch of disputing, he loved to subtilise and confound its speculative Principles; but he bore quite another Character, when he came to the practical Part, and treated of the Cures of Diseases. This appears from the Writings of Celsus, who in most Cases follows his Method of Cure. The whole Sect of the Methodists

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*thodists, made the greatest Use of Frictions, and different Aspersions of the Body in Chronical Disorders, as one may easily see in Caelius Aurelianus, whose Writings alone escaped the Shipwrack of that famous School.*

*Aræteus, has left us a most beautiful History of chronical Distempers, with a rational Method of Cure: Friction is much recommended in most of them, and if the Disorder proceeded from a Defect in any particular Part, he determines both the Place and Measure of Friction. On this Subject he displays his great Judgment, when he treats of the Epilepsy and Cephalææa\*.*

*This Author of so great Authority, if we may credit the best Critics, borrowed most of his System from the Writings of Hippocrates, and is on that Account esteemed his exact and faithful Commentator,——But in the present Argument, Galen's Testimony is alone sufficient, nor is it necessary to cite others; whoever carefully reads him on this Subject, must soon be convinced, that the Use and Ef-*

\* *An obstinate and violent Head-Ach, returning on every slight Occasion.*



ficacy of Friction, was esteemed by the Physicians of that and the preceeding Ages, an Object worthy of their Enquiries †, being all agreed that it was the principal Remedy in Chronical Cases; and accordingly they had constant Recourse to it, when their Intention was to strengthen a weak Body, or by a quick Distribution of the Aliment to recruit a Languid one, or if the Indications were to excite the vital Heat, or digest and bring away bad Juices, their Practice was still the same. There were Disputes, 'tis true, sometimes concerning the Place and the Manner of administering it; but its Efficacy as a proper Remedy, was never called in Question. Nor is this any Way surprizing; for in so delicate a Subject, Difficulties must naturally occur, before the just Measure and Limits can be precisely determined. Galen undertook this difficult Task, and has at large described, in what Manner this Remedy must be accommodated to different Ages and Temperaments.

† A Physician ought to be skilful in many Things, especially in the Nature of Friction. *Hippoc. de Articulis.* §. ix.

Neither did those ancient Physicians order Frictions, solely in Chronic Cases; for they likewise enjoyned them in Putrid Fevers; in Tertians too and Quartans, which had frequent Returns, and were of long Continuance, they practised the same. In these last, some ordered the whole Body to be rubbed over (which was Galen's Method) and others the Belly only and Hypochondriac Regions. This they constantly did before the Paroxysm, in order to attract the digested febrile Matter, by Virtue of the Heat, towards the Surface of the Body, there to be discharged.

From these Facts it is plain, this Remedy was in the highest Esteem with the Ancients, for the Preservation of Health, and the Cure of Diseases. Other Nations, too, who probably never saw the Greek Writings, make great Use of this Instrument of Nature. The Chinese and some Indian Nations, if our Travellers deserve Credit, cure several stubborn Disorders, solely by Friction, a Remedy which neither Books, nor Reasoning seem to have suggested, but Use and Practice; much in the  
same

*same Manner, as country Farriers, by the meer Guidance of Nature employ frequent rubbing, both as Food and Physic for their Horses.—Boerhaave then, had very good Reasons to order, the Parts to be rubbed with warm, dry, rough Cloths. As being a Rule of the Art, equally recommended from the Reason of Things, and the Authority of the most skilful Physicians.\**

*It will possibly be asked, how a Remedy so well recommended came to loose its Credit with the Moderns, since it is certainly much neglected in the present Practice.—This is principally to be ascribed to the new Reasonings, which were adopted by the Physicians of the last Century, who introduced quite a different Theory of Chronic Diseases. Some ingenious Men, who applied themselves to Chemistry,*

*\* It had been an easy Matter, to have accounted for the Effects of Friction, from its Physiology; as it accelerates the Motion of the Blood in the extreme Vessels, and so proves a Stimulus, dissolves its viscid Particles, promotes Perspiration, &c. But this did not properly come into this Discourse, which seems only intended to prove it to have been the constant Practice of the greatest Physicians among the Antients.*



at first were satisfied with explaining Medicine only from Experiments in that Art, but soon after they attempted to form from thence a new System.

In these Disorders, according to their Doctrine, either an Acid, or a specific Ferment prevailed; or a Putrefaction had infected the Juices and Humours of the Body; or some other fictitious Cause was always at Hand to solve the Appearances: Next, the Liquids becoming exalted, broke out into some different Species or other, and so produced different Kinds of Chronic Diseases: As these were specifically different from each other, there was a Necessity to find out new and Specific Remedies. And in a short Time nothing was to be heard of, but Antacids, Elixirs of all Sorts, Quintescences, Sudorifics, &c.—No Wonder then if amidst so many pompous Medicines, Friction was neglected, as something mean and trivial. The Physicians of that Time, racking their Brain to find out a Salve for every Sore; or a specific for every Disorder, but their own.

Though

Though this was the Theory generally received, yet there were some practical Physicians who followed a very different Method. Such was Doctor Sydenham, who is the properest Example we can bring, as he had intirely given into that visionary System. He frequently observes "that these (Chronic\*)  
 " Diseases are not to be cured by Medicines  
 " alone—that daily Exercise is here, more effectual than the Apothecary's Shop—that  
 " Mercury in the Lues Venerea, or the Bark in an Ague, are not more efficacious than Riding in a Consumption, of which he tells us such surprising good Effects, that, though his Veracity is unquestionable, some have in this Case suspected his Judgment.†

\* With Regard to Chronic Cases, he must certainly be esteemed the true Physician, who can produce such a Remedy as destroys the Species of the Disease. Sydenham's Preface to the History of acute Diseases.

† He solemnly assures us, that He had saved some of his consumptive Patients by this Remedy, after they had been subject to Night Sweats, and the Diarrhea, a Case which Hippocrates and all succeeding Physicians had pronounced mortal.

Accordingly,

Accordingly, in delivering this Method of Cure, he recommends a few Stomachicks, and lays the whole Stress on Air and Exercise; and thus this great Man's Sagacity and Candour delivered him from those Errors in Practice, which were the natural Consequences of this Theory.

But Boerhaave well understood "the Simplicity of Nature in these Disorders; and "taught us, that Chronical Diseases though "infinitely various with Regard to the "Symptoms, yet were not very complex in "their Origin, nor required so many different Medicines, or so various a Method of Cure.\*

The Medicines here recommended are few and simple; chiefly the Gums and Juices of the aperient Plants. The Doctor though very skilful in Chemistry, seldom used its Preparations, not that he was insensible that uncommon Cures had been affected by them, in desperate Cases. A prudent Physician bore-

\* See his Aphorisms, last Paragraph of the Chapter on Chronical Diseases.



ever will be cautious how he orders such Medicines as frequently prove fatal to the Patient, in case the Viscera are not found and sufficiently strong to bear the Shock they give; Circumstances not always so easy to descry.

We may likewise add, that these strong Remedies were not so well adapted to Boerhaave's Intentions; for in those Cases especially, pursuant to his Doctrine, we must proceed by slow Degrees, such as the Nature of the Disorder and the Laws of the animal Oeconomy require. Nor on the other Hand, need we pay too scrupulous a Regard to that exquisite Accuracy of Construction, which some Anatomists imagine, who being but moderately acquainted with the Laws of the animal System, fancy such a Connection is established betwixt the several Parts of the Body, that a small Disorder must derange the whole Structure.

Thus we Mortals construct Machines; but we our selves are framed by the great Artist in a more transcendent Manner, for when a Disease attacks us, numerous Auxiliaries

illaries occur from every quarter to drive it off, and should it persist, many are the Stages of its Progress, before it spoils the elegant fabric. Diseases then, as well as Health admit of a considerable Latitude. Hence the Physician, who keeping the Body soluble and promoting Perspiration, does at the same Time restore elastic Force to the Fibres, must render greater Service in those Cases, than is commonly imagined: For Nature will thus have a fair Opportunity, to exert her Forces. This Boerhaave attempted chiefly by Friction, and gentle detergent and aperient Medicines, which (that Nature might have Time to work) he generally ordered to be tried, at least for six Weeks together, in Hopes of Amendment.

These are the chief Things remarkable in our Authors Method of Cure in Chronic Disorders, which in a great Measure must prove constant, as it will often do great Service, but never can do harm. This Course was not only prudent, but particularly to be recommended in Boerhaave, who was at a  
great

great Distance from these Patients, and had frequently confused and imperfect Histories of the Cases transmitted to him. It must however be allowed, that had he been present he might probably have made some Alterations in the Prescriptions, and adapted them better to the Constitution of the Patient, and the Stage of the disease.

It was proposed to add to this Volume some other Papers of the Doctor's which came lately to our Hands, as they relate to the History of Chronic Diseases.—But we have delayed the publishing them, now, till we see what Reception these Letters meet with.

C. B.


N. B. The Letters and BOERHAAVE's Answers marked (\* \*) were wrote originally in English.

T H E





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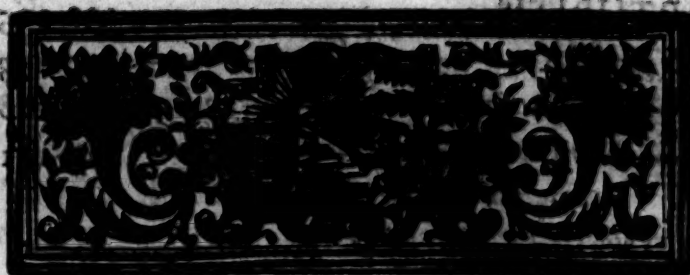
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PALSY

## LETTERS

TO THE

Late DOCTOR BOERHAAVE,

With His ANSWERS.

## LETTER I

To the much honoured Doctor BOERHAAVE,  
 Professor of Medicine, &c. &c.

SIR,

**T**HE lady who begs your advice, is now entered her thirty first year, and threatened with a consumption, which I am afraid is hereditary: That the animal fibres are much weakened, is but too apparent from her thin habit of body, the natural strength much wasted, and her legs swelling at night, &c.

SHE enjoyed a pretty good state of health to her twentieth year, when after an acute fever, she was attacked with a *Chlorosis*, *Fluor albus*, and the

B

whole

whole train of hysteric complaints the sex is subject to; but particularly, she complained of a head-ach and lowness of spirits. The physicians who attended her during the fever, from their too great care, had ordered her to be blooded six times, and that plentifully. This brought on a cough, with which she has been afflicted these last seven years, and which rather increases. Her ladyship had formerly been too often at balls, and sit up late at night, not knowing the bad consequences. With regard to eating, she has been always extremely moderate, and never used any strong liquors. She complains sometimes of a painful constriction of her breast, and daily throws up by coughing a *Pblegm*, which tastes sometimes sweetish, and at other Times saltish: The greater quantity of this matter there is evacuated, the freer she is from all other complaints, which I think ought carefully to be considered.

THE due perspiration is obstructed by the smallest cause, and then the cough always grows worse. She complained once or twice of *Hætic Fits*, but they were slight; 'tis easy to perceive that her flesh falls gently away.

SHE married at twenty six, and three years after was brought to bed of a daughter, since that time the *Chlorosis* has in a great measure gone off, tho' the *Menses* do not as yet come regularly; when she

was



late Doctor BOERHAAVE.

3

was with child, her whole face was covered over with scorbutic pimples, not unlike those that Drunkards are often marked with, which have not altogether disappeared.

Be pleased, sir, to give us your advice in this case, which I am confident will prove both for the benefit of the patient, and honour of your character.

I am Sir,

With the utmost Regard

Yours, &c. &c.

Doctor BOERHAAVE's Answer.

SIR,

I Have considered the case you so accurately describe, and which you have likewise treated with great prudence. A tender and delicate make of body, and particularly a weakness in the lungs, is I believe, the original cause whence the disorder proceeds. Therefore all evacuations are in my judgment improper, as must likewise be whatever impairs the natural strength; on the other hand, what recovers or increases it must be carefully pursued. As frequent rubbing the body and proper exercise, with dry food and of easy digestion, are of great use for this end, I most heartily recommend

B 2

them.

them. I shall order a few things by way of *Physic*. Let the lady every three hours take three of the pills A, drinking immediately after, one ounce of the medicinal wine B, and this particularly when the stomach is empty. If after reflection you approve of this course, (and only on that condition) I would recommend it to be tried for two months, when I hope the patient will be sensible of it's good effects.—Do you in the mean time, make what alterations in it you judge proper. This province your worth and capacity intitles you to: I shall always be proud to be esteemed as your Friend, and am, sir, &c, &c.

## A.

*R. Asae Foetid. Drach. ss.*

*Balsam. Pervoian. Drach. j.*

*Catechu,*

*Mastiche,*

*Olibani,*

*Succi Infusat. Glycyrrhizae, ana dr. jss.*

*M. F. Pilulae singul. gr. iij.*

B)

*R. Cortic. Capparid.*  
*Cinnam.*  
*Tamarisc. ana unc. jss.*  
*Ligni Santali Citrin.*  
*rubr. ana drach. iij.*  
*Linnaturae Martis rec. non rubig. dr. xij.*  
*Rad. Caryophyllas. unc. ss.*  
*Helenij. drach. ij.*  
*Imperat. drach. j.*  
*Sem. IV. calid. min. ana drach. ss.*

*Mix them altogether and make a powder of them, rubence with  
 two quarts of White French Wine or Spanish, make S. A. a me-  
 dicinal wine.*

## LETTER II.

SIR,

**T**HE great character you have so justly gain-  
 ed, induces me to apply for your advice in  
 the case of my misfortunate son, who is now fix-  
 teen years old, and applies to his studies. His  
 temperament is phlegmatic, pale of colour, and is  
 of a lax habit of body; his passions are easily mov-  
 ed. About five years ago, on catching cold in  
 his Feet, he was seized with *Cramps*, which begun  
 first at the roots of the toes and back of the *Me-  
 tatarsus* of the right foot, but by degrees mount-  
 ing higher, violently and with great pain con-  
 tracted the muscles of the foot and leg: He felt



the greatest pain in the *Tendo Achilles*. The *Paroxysm* lasted for some hours and then he enjoyed his usual good health. He has hitherto had two or three such fits in the year, (especially after catching cold) and they now return with greater violence, but without any observable relation to the changes of the moon. The two first years the *Spasms* never went higher than the muscles which move the right thigh, but since that time, beginning always in the old place of the right foot, they came gradually up towards the head, and then all the muscles of the right side became convulsed in a terrible manner.

THE different ligatures we used were of no service. When they reach the head, the muscles of the whole body are drawn in a most violent and shocking manner, and he is then intirely deprived of all the senses, both internal and external, or suffers an *Epilepsy*, which ends in a compleat *Apoplexy*, with Inoring, frothing at the mouth, &c. For some minutes after the fit is over, there is felt a great cold in the right leg, which is easily done away by rubbing it. He suffered the last attack of this terrible disease about the beginning of the month of *August*; and is more subject to it, in the summer than in the winter season. A cold northerly air agrees best with him.

T H E R E

THERE is one circumstance which ought to be related, and that is, the patient is very sensible of a certain change, which he cannot well express on the back of the *Metatarsus* of the right foot, some hours, nay, sometimes a day or two before the fit by which he can for certain assure us of its coming. A few days likewise before the fit, his colour changes and becomes palish and darkish; when the fit begins, ligatures round the ankle, &c. of the right leg stop it for some time. While the disease mounts towards the head, he feels nothing like to a blast of cold air. (a) By the prescription of a Quack he has often drunk the Juice of *Yew's Wort* and *Horse Tail*, but this did him no service.

A young gentleman who practises physic here, was consulted, and advised him to eat nothing but flesh and that high seasoned, with bread that is well leavened; he forbid him the use of *Acids*, or what was sweet; for ordinary drink allowed him cold water, and now and then a glass of wine, or strong ale; recommended moderate exercise, and that long continued, warning him much against

(a) The matter which occasions the fit, as it mounts towards the brain, is usually felt by the patient in the manner described; hence the absence of this sign is here remarked. Ligatures often prevent the fit entirely, which they do by compressing the *Nerves*, and ought therefore to be made very tight.

catching cold. By his directions likewise he has lately begun to take the following medicines, viz. For the first five days, he takes the gummous pills: Then he takes the chalybeate pills, as prescribed by Doctor Sydenham. These he is to continue for a long time with a medicated wine, in which are infused *Gentian Root*, *Zedoary*, *Virginia Snake-root*, *Wild Valerian* and *Saffron*.

THE same physician proposed to burn with a hot Iron the *Tendo Achilles*, where it is attached to the *Os Calcis*, and to pierce quite through to the bone: He thinks likewise it would be proper to make a few superficial burnings on the back of the *Metatarsus*, which ought to be kept long open by caustics mixed with strong digestives: But he will not allow this harsh operation to be performed, till he has your approbation. I beg therefore, sir, you will be so good, as give me an answer to these queries.

1<sup>st</sup>, Is there no radical certain cure for this dismal disorder? or how at least are we to provide against or prevent it?

2<sup>dly</sup>, Does the proposed method of cure please you, or is there not a better?

3<sup>dly</sup>, What diet would you recommend, and what exercises?

4<sup>thly</sup>, Are not the principal hopes of cure from the Burnings? If so, where must it be performed,

in



in one or more places at the same time, and which?

5thly, Will not an iron about the thickness of an hen's feather be sufficient? how deep must it be pushed?

6thly, Is there not danger of his halting afterwards, from the perforation of the *Tendo Achilles*?

7thly, Will rubbing the parts with flannel, and this often repeated for a considerable time, promote the cure?

### THE ANSWER.

I Have with great attention read over and considered the subject of the letter, and heartily compassionate the gentleman's unhappy fate. After the closest reflections on the case, I offer the following directions as the best I am capable to give.

1st, Let the patient bath his feet and legs in warm water for half an hour, every evening before he goes to bed; then after drying them, they must be well rubbed for a quarter of an hour with dry coarse flannels, which have been warmed. He must then immediately apply to the soles of his feet and back of the *Metatarsus*, the plaisters A. These must be kept on night and day; nor ever laid aside, but while he is a bathing.

2dly, The exercise of walking, not vehement, but continued a good time will be of great use  
in

in strengthening the bones of the *Tarsus* and *Metatarsus*: In the morning and evening, it will be proper to make an extension of the *Tarsus* and *Metatarsus*, such as is usually done in reducing these parts when *luxated*.

3dly, Let him twice a month, three days before new and full-moon, take the purge *B*. This he must do at six a clock in the morning, when his stomach is empty, and let him drink it all at once.

THE same days at six a clock in the evening, he must take the draught *C*. These days likewise, after bathing, and rubbing his legs, he must gently before a fire do them over with oil of spike, so as it may be forced into the pores of the skin and there remain: This must be repeated as often he perceives by the change in his foot, that the *Fist* is a coming.

4thly, THE other days of the month that he does not purge, let him drink in the morning fasting three ounces of the *infusion D*.

As to his diet, he may eat what is light, such as are the different preparations from grains of all kinds, herbs and greens; fish and flesh he ought to eat of sparingly, and for drink use small Beer: Let him always go to bed betimes, and rather indulge in sleeping.—If after the tryal of all this for three months, he perceives any benefit, he must

must then steadily continue the same course for a year longer; if he does not perceive any change for the better, then must he submit to the operation, which is to be performed with a round stylet of iron, about a thumbs breadth in diameter. This must be applied red hot to the back part of the heel, and made to burn as deep, as is usual in the marking of criminals. (a) The scar is brought away by dressing it with *Basilicum*, and then the fore must be kept open by mixing the red precipitate with *Basilicum*, as often as it begins to heal. He may pursue his studies with moderation. This is the sum of my advice, which I pray God may bless.

H. B.

Leyden 17<sup>th</sup> 37.

R. Gummi. Ammon.

Basilis,

Grisen, ana unc. jss.

Emplast. Oxyroc. unc. iij.

M. F: Emplastrum ad alutam extend.

(a) Boerhaave expresses himself here in somewhat a vague manner. Not only the skin, but the tendon itself was to be burned so as to deprive it of sense.



B.

*R. Cinnabar. nativ. Hungar. gr. x.**Resin. Guajac. gr. v.**Rhei, drach. ss.**Scammon. gr. viij.**Stib. diaphoret. gr. xv.**Syrup. Cicber. cum Rhee drach. vj.**Diu accuratissime trita simul misce**Cum Aq. Stillat. Cicber. unc. ij.**F. Haustus.*

C.

*R. Aq. Stillat. Rhoead. unc. ij.**Syrup. Diacod. drach. vj.**Tinct. Opii gutt. viij.**M. F. Haustus.*

D.

*R. Rad. Caryophyllat.**Pacon.**Valerian. Sylvest. ana scrup. ℥.**Rutas rec. drach. ij.*

*These must be cut very small and infused in boiling water like  
Thé. Every day there must be seven ounces fresh prepared.*

### LETTER III.

**A** Young gentleman of Fortune and merit, who  
is now in his twenty eighth year, lately  
consulted me about the recovery of his health, after  
having the advice of some very eminent physicians.  
When

When I had carefully considered his case, the greatness and duration of the disease, I found myself unable to give him relief, so advised him to apply to you, who are every where so much esteemed, and by his orders I now transmit you the following history; the greatest part of it the patient communicated to me, to which I have subjoined a few observations of my own, as I had not time to make many.

He enjoyed a good state of health, at the time his parents sent him to *London* for education: There he often eat at night toasted cheese and bread with his companions, as he was a great lover of it. In the end of harvest, after eating one night very plentifully at supper, he was suddenly awaked from his first sleep, and seized with such a difficulty of respiration and an oppression, that those who were present thought he must have immediately expired. About an hour after the symptoms wore off, without the help of any medicines, or any sensible evacuation, and he seemed intirely free from every sort of disorder.

From that to his fifteenth year, he had many such attacks, commonly about the end of summer, or beginning of harvest, which all went off without any sensible evacuation. The last *August*, the disease returned much increased, and kept him for ten weeks together. The physicians prescribed

*Cathartic*

*Cathartic* and *Pectoral* medicines. A plentiful expectoration which now first appeared gave him relief. But his strength being much impaired thro' the long continuance of his Illness, he left the town and went home, where by the benefit of a freer air, proper exercise, and the use of a few *pectoral* and *attenuating* medicines, not too hot, he reached the twenty second year of his age in a tolerable state of health. He had however now and then a return of the *Fit*, especially on catching cold, or the diminishing of the spitting.

WHAT happens before and during the *Barysm* is pretty constantly as follows, viz. Before it comes, he feels as if his belly was blown up, and during the *Fit* itself has the sense of a great constriction at the pit of the stomach, and at his heart; this is commonly attended with great pain in the forehead and the joints: His urine before the *Fit*, is redder than usual and in smaller quantity, nor does he remember that it ever came away pale; he then likewise goes seldom to stool. During the fit, besides the difficulty of breathing, and the constriction he feels at his stomach with a dry cough, he has almost always a *Froer*, which it is easy to perceive by the heat of his body and quick tho' unequal pulse: Sometimes likewise he is cold and trembles as in an *Ague*, and then he is always sure of having a very severe *Fit*. All these symptoms



symptoms increase during the *Paroxysm*, till at last he begins to cough up a tough viscid *Pblegm* in great quantity and makes water plentifully, which has a sediment of a brick colour: The greater these two evacuations are and attended by the foregoing symptoms, the greater also has the relief been which the patient enjoyed.

THE *Paroxysm* ends commonly in the Space of eight or ten days, and when shortest the *Pblegm* is observed not to be so thick or viscid as at other times, but much of the consistency of thin jelly of hart's-horn.

THE intervals of the fits are so uncertain, that the gentleman can say nothing particular about them.

THIS is the history of the disease to his twenty second year, at which time he became *Hypochondriac*: On the approach therefore of the *Fit*, he is subject to great lowness of spirits, which joined to the other circumstances I have already mentioned, bears very hard on him. When the *Fit* is over, he is for the most part chearful, breaths easily and has a good appetite.

I hope, sir, your goodness will excuse what faults I may have committed, in describing the case, and beg you'll favour me with your advice. I shall conclude with praying that God may long preserve you, who are not only the great ornament  
of

of your profession, but a public blessing to mankind. This must be the wish of every good man, and is in particular that of

*Sir, your most devoted, &c.*

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BOERHAAVE'S Answer.

SIR,

I RECEIVED your most acceptable letter; and shall think my self happy in the correspondence of so able a physician, which I wish may be as agreeable and useful to you, as it will prove to me. Allow me to take this opportunity of thanking you for the favourable testimony, I hear you give of me. Tho' I know very well my own poor capacity, yet from regard to your commands which I shall always (if in my power) obey, and those of your worthy patient, I shall offer you the best advice I am capable to give.

AFTER accurately considering the case, I am of opinion, that the disorder is an *Asthma* caused by convulsion: The part affected is the *Diaphragm*, and in that place particularly, where the gullet passes through and is expanded into the stomach. The nerves there are very numerous, and have been irritated by the cheese, which was  
swelled

swelled from the action of the fire on it, and of which the gentleman eat immoderately. Hence ensued a *Cramp* in the *Diaphragm*, stopping the reciprocal dilatation and constriction of the breast, and at that instant of time threatening an immediate death: The danger of being suffocated, was destroyed by the weakness arising from the original disease, and which indeed must have been the next stage to death itself. This sort of weakness relaxes the nerves and muscles when over stretched, and the vital force then acting procures relief for a time. But such a degenerate state of any part can again easily be revived, and that by every slight cause, as this unfortunate gentleman, has but too much proved. Sudden convulsions return and attack those whom they have once infested, and as every new access hinders the free passage of the liquors through the organs destined for the formation of the *Chyle*, 'tis no wonder their action should be perverted, and thence *Melancholy*, or the *Hypochondriac* disease, be produced from a collection of that matter the antients called *Alrabilaria*: As this last however is but an effect of

C

(a) What is commonly called the *Blood*, is a collection of all the different juices or humours in the human body, and must consequently be composed of very different parts or particles: If then from any cause, the more subtle and liquid particles are drawn off, there will remain only the grosser and heavier.—



the first, if the original cause can be destroyed, it will be easily removed.

WHAT I would propose in the method of cure is first, that every morning before he eats, his belly, and breast be rubbed well over with rough flannel, warm and dry; this must be done for a quarter of an hour, and likewise be repeated an hour before he sups, when his stomach is empty: I earnestly recommend this article to be carefully minded, as it is of great service in these disorders.

2dly, LET him ride every day, half an hour before dinner, and as much about an hour and a half before supper.

3dly, IN the morning immediately after rubbing, let him swallow five of the pills *A*, which must be done five times, allowing ten minutes betwixt the doses and drinking after each, one ounce of the liquor *B*. He need not confine himself within doors, while he takes his *Physic*, but may take a gentle walk abroad,

4thly, HE must go to bed betimes, always by ten a clock and rise early. He may eat his breakfast an hour after the rubbing is over, and then mind what business he has, till the time that he rides.

If this be carried to a considerable heighth, the blood will then change or degenerate into a black, thick, viscid mass, which is the state here mentioned.

5thly,

5tby, For his eating I recommend what is dry, if it be of an easy digestion and taken in moderation; particularly, all ripe summer fruits, which if the season is warm and drouthy, he may eat with a little biscuit. Likewise roast flesh, river and sea fish dressed on the coals, greens of all kinds that are light, especially those of the *Succory* and *Lattice* tribe. When all this has been carefully practised for the space of two months, it may be proper to think of the use of chalybeate waters in the summer, which with proper exercise of body, and an easy state of mind will probably give a complete cure.

## A.

R. *Sapon Venet.* drach. iij.

*Balsam. Peruv.* drach. ss.

*Trochisc. de Myrrh.* drach. jss.

M. F. *Pilulac.* gr. iv.

## B.

R. *Res. Acetosae pratens.*

*Bellid. pratens.*

*Chaerophyll.*

*Cochlear.*

*Heder. terrestr.*

*Nasturt. aquatic.*

*Taraxaci* ana q. s.

These must be well washed, cut and beat.—Then put them in a press and extract the juice, of which there must be ʒj ounces fresh prepared every morning at 6 a clock.

## LETTER IV.

**T**HE disorder for which the lady begs your assistance, is a *Species of Leprosy*, for her skin is in many places covered with scurfy scabs and scales: They are to be found over the whole body, but are chiefly on the joints and head, and when they are scratched emit a white *Ichor*.

SHE was first attacked by it about the eighth year of her age, and it rather increased to the twenty second, at which time she consulted me. I ordered her the milder *Antiscorbutics*, with several things to blunt the acrimony of the salts and sweeten her blood, liniments, washings, &c. But as this method did not succeed, she underwent a salivation, from the use of calomel and a mercurial unction, and then the scabs fell off: For a month afterwards she tryed a decoction of the woods, a decoction of the bark of elm which is much recommended by Dr. Deventer, viper medicines, testaceous powders and such like,—but all to no purpose; for in the winter the disease returned. Next spring by taking some mercurial doses she had a gentle *Ptyalismus* and then recovered, when I sent her to *Scarborough* to drink the waters on the spot



spot, and bath in the sea—but alas, as the winter came on, the scabs appeared again, and covered all her body.

As the disease proved so obstinate, I thought a milk diet absolutely necessary, and also advised her to go to Bath, and there under the care of Doctor C—— both drink the waters and use the Bath: She stayed there some months, and then returned home, in all appearance well and sound. But the respite she enjoyed was very short; for six months after the old disorder returned and bids defiance, I am afraid, to the power of medicine.

HER mother was a native of the isle of *Barbadoes*, and she herself is now twenty six years old; The *Menses* often stop, and when they do come, it is in small quantity and attended with pain: She is often subject to the *Fluxus Albus*, and has wandering pains through all the body, particularly in her head: She is restless in the night time, and has sudden heats without any apparent cause, which likewise go as quickly off: She cannot bear the smallest degree of cold without uneasiness: Her complexion formerly clear and lively, is sometimes pale, and at other times yellow: Her flesh falls gently away. None can be more temperate, than she is in every respect; she intirely confines herself to a milk and vegetable diet, never tasting any flesh: Rides abroad in fair weather. As her

stomach is often filled with *Pblegm*, she takes vomits, and then uses corroborating medicines. Thus you have, sir, a description of the present state of this obstinate disease, which has hitherto baffled the skill of our physicians.

---

BOERHAAVE'S *Answer.*

**A**FTER so many and proper medicines have proved ineffectual, I would now advise the lady to have all the parts where the disease appears, well rubbed over every morning and night with coarse flannel, and that for a considerable time, and as strongly as she can indure it. The flannel must first be held over the smoak of burning brimstone, that so it may be full of the fumes at the time it is used. And they must take different cloths, that so when one is using, the others may be kept above the fumes, and by that means the steam of the sulphur strongly forced into the pores of the skin by the friction: Her shifts likewise, stockings, head-dress, must be all smoaked in the same manner, before she puts them on. While these *topical* applications are made, there must likewise be observed all the time a strict regimen and proper course of physic, and great care must be taken, lest the matter which is forced into the skin,

skin, should get into, and remain in the blood: This is best done if the patient would take the *Hydragoge A*, when her stomach is empty, twice a month, three days before new and full moon. The same days let her take at once the draught *B*, at six a clock in the evening. The other days of the month that she does not purge, let her every day take thrice, an hour before breakfast, dinner and supper, each time five ounces of the decoction *C*. In the mean time exercise is extremely proper.—She must abstain from all salted or smoaked flesh, from every thing that is sharp, from all fat meat, particularly bacon, &c.

## A.

*R. Asbiop. miser. gr. ix.*

*Resin. Jalapp. gr. iv.*

*Sacchar. albi gr. iij.*

*Scammon. gr. v.*

*Stib. diaphoret. gr. xiv.*

*M. F. Pulvis tenuissimus.*

## B.

*R. Aq. Stillat. Melissae. unc. ij.*

*Spir. vitæ Matthioli dr. iij.*

*Syrup. Diacod. dr. vi.*

*Tinct. Saccis. gutt. ix.*

## M.



C.

R. Rad. res. Bardani unc. 1v:

Graminis unc. iij.

Eryngii unc. ij.

Lapath. acut. drach. ij.

Recentiss. Scabiosae m. j.

Make a decoction of these with a sufficient quantity of fountain water, of which 1v pints are to be used.

## LETTER V.

THE lady who begs your advice had the misfortune of a bruise in the right *Labium Vulvae*, which swelled and inflamed; it afterwards suppurated and was opened, when it discharged a great quantity of *pus*: As the incision had been made too small, it turned to a *fistulous ulcer*. The surgeon who attended her, betaking himself to the caustic consumed almost the whole of the part, and so cured it. In the mean time her ladyship proved with child, and was brought to bed in the due time; but immediately after the birth, the *labrum sinistrum pudendi* swelled, and that attended with most exquisite pain, which obliged her to lie on her back for the three following days, with the right leg bended backwards. This tumour at last was dissipated by proper fomentations, which her ladyship owed to the rough treatment of her midwife.

midwife. After this birth likewise she felt a pain in her thigh, as if it was pricked with pins in several places at once: This was overcome however by using the ointment of *Marsh-mallows*, and that of *Amber*, but then the leg was affected with a kind of *numbness*, and now and then with fits of heat and cold, as is usually felt in dipping in cold water: There remained still a weakness in the thigh. Besides all this, she had likewise a very copious flux of a putrid matter from the *Uterus*, which ceased after seven weeks from using of *Asa Fœtida*, and with it all the other symptoms disappeared, except the forementioned pain in the leg.

HER ladyship was brought to bed next time of twins; it was remarkable that before the birth, she always felt their weight in the right side of the *Abdomen*, whence that part was raised, and then followed an increase of the pain in the right thigh and leg.

SHE proved with child the third time and had a happy delivery, but was seized about six weeks after with a copious flux of whitish matter from the *Uterus*, and an *ardor urinae*, which did not leave her till next conception; this time she did not long keep her burthen, but aborted in the third month: This was attended with a surprising flux of the *Lochia*, which were pale and watry, and then succeeded another of white thick matter, which sometimes

sometimes came away without pain; at other times it was sharp and fetid, occasioning a heat of urine, and excoriating the parts: These two last symptoms she always had betwixt the return of the *Menses*, at the appearance of which the flux, heat of urine, and the stiffness in the loins, the right thigh and leg wore off. But as soon as the *Menstrua* stop, then returns the flux from the *Uterus*, which at first is whitish, then turns a yellow, thin, watry matter with slime in it: When it begins first, it is mild and has no smell, but turning afterwards of a blackish colour, it becomes sharp and excoriates. She is subject likewise to great weakness, particularly in the loins and small of the back, and feels a great stiffness mostly in the right side, all down from where about the liver is, along the right thigh and leg to the ankle. Her colour is become pale, and the veins on the right side appear more turgid and swell'd than those of the left. She finds relief from all those symptoms, when there is either a copious flux from the *Uterus*, or the urine is very turbid and full of sediment, and is freed from them intirely during the time of her *Menses*; but when these are over, all the old complaints return.

To conclude, the lady grows daily worse, her body decaying and flesh turning loose; is oppressed with melancholy and loss of appetite, subject



to cold sweats and a kind of trembling. She has taken many medicines by the advice of her physicians, since the month of *August* last year, which was the time the forementioned symptoms first attacked her; but none of them have done her any service. We now earnestly beg of you, sir, who has justly gained so great a character, to send us your opinion about this disorder, and if possible, preserve this most worthy lady, who is an honour to her country, dear to all her relations, and a public blessing to the poor.

P. S. We ought to remark, that the patient feels no uneasiness in the left side, but that the *fomes* of the disease lies intirely on the right, where she feels a heat about the kidneys, and finds as if something round was moving from the lower part of her belly towards the liver. The *Menses* are much in the same regular way, as when she enjoyed her health, and always bring her relief from the forementioned symptoms.

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*The* ANSWER.

THE many bad symptoms, which attend this complicate disorder, signify, I am afraid, an ulcerous, or schirrous tumor in the right side of the *Uterus*, that furnishes constantly a sanious matter,

ter, which comes away in the time of the *Menses*; when the womb is afterwards closed, the same must be there collected, and cause many bad consequences, but being again drawn off by the menstrual flux, the patient finds relief for a time. The bad effects of this turning to a virulent *Cancer*, are much to be feared, and perhaps a putrid death may happen first from a consumption of the juices. (a)

As the distemper is now of long standing, and has taken deep root, and has likewise baffled the many remedies used against it, destroying the natural strength, and in a manner consuming the patient; I do not see any great hopes of relief from all I can advise about it, who am absent and at a distance. However, to obey your commands, I shall recommend the following articles.

1. LET the lady drink when she awakes at six a clock of the morning, three ounces of the *Spa* water from the fountain *Poubont*, and this mixed with as much milk, fresh from the cow. Let her do the same at eight, ten and twelve a clock. I

(a) When matter flowing from an ulcer or sore in a particular part of the body cannot be discharged, it must then mix with the other juices, and so enter the blood; which hence becomes acrid, corrosive and corrupted. It is then unfit for circulating, and destroys the small fine parts where it comes, so occasions that sort of death here called *putrid*.

suppose

suppose she may rise about nine, and let her take a gentle airing in a chariot till twelve.

2. LET her dine at one a clock, chiefly on ripe summer fruits and bread; she may eat greens dressed any how, all kind of cakes and custards, and fresh meat roasted, and river fish broiled. She may likewise drink now and then a glass of old *Hock*.

3. AFTER dinner she may again take the country air in her chariot. She may drink at six a clock of the evening her water and milk, as she did in the morning, and do the same again at eight a clock. Let her eat a light supper at nine a clock, of what I have before recommended.

4. THIS method I would recommend to be followed during this summer season, which ought to be continued and carefully observed, at least for six weeks, with a total forbearance from all kind of *Physic*: my design in all this, is to sweeten the juices, by freeing them of what is sharp and corrupted, to endeavour to soften and cleanse the part affected, so if possible heal it up; this method will likewise in the mean time refresh and strengthen the patient.

5. THAT this may prove the more effectual, it will be proper every morning before she rises, to have her belly well rubbed over near the part affected,



affected, with dry, warm coarse flannel, and that for an half hour together. This ought likewise to be done at night before she falls asleep.—In all these things here proposed, I most willingly submit to the opinion of better judges. (a).

H. B.

Leyden, 17<sup>th</sup> 34.

## LETTER VI.

A STRONG young gentleman of twenty years of age, has complained for twelve months past of a *Vertigo*\*, head-ach and oppression † at his breast; these symptoms kept no certain periods, and when they attack'd him, lasted commonly three or four minutes. During this time he had twice a fit of an *Epilepsy*, of which the first was in the

(a) Nothing can be a greater proof of the stress *Borbaave* laid on the right observation of the *Nonnatural*s, than this letter is. Where other physicians would have ordered a multitude of medicines, to be used *externally* and *internally*, he prescribes a total abstinence from all *Physic*. Nor is his modesty in delivering his opinion less remarkable. This was carried in him to an *excess*, and is a quality peculiar to all truly great men.

\* A *Vertigo* is properly, when objects without us appear to turn round, attended with a dimness of sight, and sometimes an aptness to fall.

† *Anxietas*.

month

month of *February* last year: The second in *January* this present year. In the last *Paroxysm* he did not loose his senses altogether, but fell down on his face moving his hand to his head; his right arm and head shaked.— When he was asked, he complained of a head-ach, and oppression at his breast, pointing with his hand to those parts. These symptoms did not intirely go off, till he was plentifully blooded.

A melancholy accident fell out in the mean time; for a young gentleman his friend, who from his regard attended him during this illness, died in his arms delirious.— This threw him into raving madness, which however, was soon and perfectly cured by the care of the ingenious Dr. C—. His parents however desired me to make particular mention of this circumstance.

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### *The* ANSWER.

I WAS grieved when I read the description of the disorder: For it appears to be a true *Epilepsy*. There is no one circumstance in it worse, than the great distance betwixt the fits; for the longer time there is betwixt them, this disease has always been reckoned more difficult of cure, nor  
can

can we easily judge of the effects of medicines, when the patient is attacked only once in the year.

I would advise the gentleman to take the purge *A*, once a month, three days before full moon, at five a clock in the morning, mixed with rain water: That day he must keep at home, and eat very little dinner, nor taste any thing that is acid, before five in the evening. The other days, he must drink three hours in the morning before breakfast, two ounces of Water in which fresh *Rue* has been infused, as *℞*. Let him at five in the evening drink again one ounce more of it.

He must at least six times in the month, bath his feet and legs in warm water; this will be best done in the evening before he sups, for three days successively before full moon, and as many before new-moon. When this is over, he must rub his legs strongly with warm, dry, rough cloths, so as to promote perspiration, and draw the humours downwards from the head.

At the same time he minds these rules, he must likewise use constant and pretty violent exercise of body, to strengthen the nerves and brain, and preserve the animal spirits in a lively state.—I hope for every thing that's good from the observance



fervance of these prescriptions, which I heartily pray God may bless.

H. B.

A.

R. *Cinnabar, Nativ. Hungar.* gr. x.

*Lapid. Haematit.* gr. vi.

*Resin. Jalapp.* gr. iv.

*Rad. Rhei elect. pulv.* gr. vij.

*Scammon.* gr. viij.

*Stib. Diaphoret.* gr. vij.

Mix all these together, and in a glass-mortar beat them into a fine powder.

## LETTER VII.

THAT I may the better describe the gentleman's case, who now applies for your assistance, it will be proper to give a short history of his by past manner of life.

His father was much troubled with the gout and scurvy, and he himself had the last to a violent degree when very young; it covered all his body with blotches and spots, especially his face; those appeared and disappeared as he was in a good, or bad state of health. (a)

(a) It was more agreeable to the nature of a simple description (which all histories of cases should be) to have inverted this last part by saying, *that as* those appeared or disappeared, *the patient was in a good, &c.*

D

AT

At the age of nineteen he went to *Leyden*, where he was seized with a *Flux*, which under your care was soon cured. From *Leyden* he went to the army of the allies which was then in *Flanders*, and at war with the *French*, where he served in one of the regiments of the *Scotch Hollanders*. From this time he led intirely a foldiers life, undergoing all manner of fatigue, watching, fasting and lying exposed to the injuries and inclemencies of the weather, as much as any common centinel in the troops. He then used to eat that sort of *Dutch* cheese called *Cummin-cheese*, and often made a meal of it, which brought on him such a loss of appetite, that he has never been able to recover it by the many medicines he has since taken.

In the year 1709, being now in his 25th year he returned home, and soon after had a commission from his *Chief* for suppressing the thieves and rogues who then infested the north-highlands: this office often obliged him to travel over their hills which are covered with snow, to make long journies and lye in the night time exposed to the open air, having no other covering besides a *Highland Plaid*, which is the common dress of the inhabitants. As the weather was extremely cold, he drank often pretty plentifully of *Aqua Vite* by way of preservative.

IN this manner he lived for several years, and from it the *Scurvy* grew worse and became inveterate; he had likewise attacks of the *Gout* for these last ten years, which came for the first five years regularly in the *Spring* and *Autumn*, and always fixed on his left foot, but after the accession of a very bad flux (of which I shall write more presently) the pains were never confined to the feet, but wandered through his whole body, sometimes attacking the *Stomach*, at other times the *Guts* and left side of the belly; but the more they bore downwards, the greater relief the patient received.

He drank *Goats Milk*, by the advice of his friends, by way of cure or palliative for the *Scurvy* and *Gout*; this is the general custom in those parts, and he has continued in it for these five last years, which that he might drink in its greatest perfection, he went and lived in a village hard by the hills where the *Goats* feed, at some miles distance from his own house. There one day visiting a neighbouring gentleman, he drank pretty plentifully of strong *ale*, and was next night seized with a violent *Flux*, which has continued ever since: what he chiefly complains of with regard to it, is as follows.—He feels very uneasy twitchings in his stomach and belly; these are pretty frequent, and his *Stomach* and left *Hy-*



*pochondre* are become tense and blown up, so as not to bear the pressure of the hand without pain. He is much troubled with wind and belchings, with gripings in the guts, frequent stools, a *Nausea*, head-ach and *Vertigo*: All these symptoms are heightened or diminished by the frequent or rarer returns of the *Diarrhoea*. He is now in short become lean and dry, though he was formerly of a very hale and plump constitution of body.

THE gentleman has for a long time abstained from all kind of flesh, unless fowl; and lives mostly on a milk diet, drinking only a glass or two of white Lisbon, or claret at meals, and seldom or never any Malt-liquor.

ALL *Emetics* have for some years by past purged him, and done him very little service. The best sort of *Rhubarb* has done him more good than any other medicine as yet tried; but no method we could fall on has been able to remove the *Diarrhoea*. Your advice, sir, in this difficult case is most earnestly intreated by, &c.

---

#### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

THIS disorder which arises from so many different causes, attacking several parts at once, and producing very different effects, appears

pears to be extremely *complicate*, inveterate and difficult to be removed.

THE sharp matter which causes the *Gout*, having been forced inwards by the many violent colds the gentleman indured, made its way along with his other disease the *Scurvy* to the *Intestines*, where weakning and destroying the vessels it goes off, and so produces and keeps up an obstinate *Flux*. (a)

THERE must be great caution and prudence used in attempting the cure, lest this *excretion* being suddenly stopped, produce worse Effects elsewhere : wherefore it will be necessary to substitute an evacuation through the pores of the skin, in its place.—I advise the careful observance of the following articles.

*First*, let the patient every morning expose his body to the steams of fresh water contained in a large vessel, and so hot that the vapour may plentifully ascend : his naked body may be covered

(a) As a *Sagacity* in discovering the causes of a disease, is what properly constitutes the physician, so a plain and concise expression serves to convey his conceptions to others. This *Boerhaave* was a great master of, and his short description of this most *complex case* is one instance of it, where in those few lines he says as much as most others could have explained in as many pages : But no translation can here come up to the elegance of the original.

with

with a cloak, reaching to his heels and lined with a wax cloth, which will keep in the vapour on all sides, and direct it towards his skin. The vapours are kept warm by frequently pouring in more hot water. This must be done in a very close room for about a quarter of an hour, and then his body must be well dried with warm cloths, and when dried let it be well rubbed over: he should then immediately put on his cloaths, which must likewise be dry and well warmed.

*Secondly*, let him use the exercise of riding, and that long and frequently; this before dinner and supper as much as he can endure, but always when his stomach is most empty. The observance of this is what gives the greatest hopes of curing the weakness of the intestines.

*Thirdly*, for bread let him eat biscuit, and toast it if he likes it; rice well boiled and turned to a kind of cake, and barley gently boiled are proper for him; he may likewise drink of the milk in which the rice was boiled; fresh flesh likewise roasted, and river fish dressed on the coals will do him no harm. He ought to drink but little, and that of some generous and strong liquor, of which *Brunswic Mum* is the best; when he is thirsty he may drink milk and water.

*Fourthly*,



*Fourthly*, Let him take every three hours of the day two of the *Pills A*, drinking after them one ounce of the liquor *B*.

*Fifthly*, Let him go to bed at nine and sleep till six of the clock next morning: damp, moist air is not good for him, but he ought to walk abroad in fair and dry weather.

FROM the careful observance of all this for the space of six weeks, I expect and wish for a change much to the better.

*A.*

*R. Balbi Ari recentis* drach. jss.

*Benzoin*, gr. xv.

*Croc* gr. xij.

*Mastic.*

*Olibani ana* drach. jss.

*Ol. Stillat. Cinnamon.* gut. viij.

*Rhei* drach. j.

*Succi Castebu* drach. ijs.

*Terebinth.* gr. xv.

*M. S. A. F. Pilulæ* gr. iij. sing.

*B.*

*R. Aq. Stillat. Menth.* lb. j.

*Sp. Menthae* unc. j.

*Tinct. Succin.* drach. j.

*M.*

LET

## LETTER VIII.

**A** YOUNG merchant twenty three years old, a very sober gentleman, not addicted to drinking or any other vice, fell suddenly into a spitting of blood in the month of *March* last year, without any external cause, and continued three days successively throwing up pure red blood by means of a gentle cough. For sometime after the spitting returned four times a day, and then it was diminished in quantity for the two following days, being mixed with *Pblegm*, till at last all appearance of blood in it quite ceased, and there remained only a dry cough: he thought himself then in a fair way of recovery, as did all his friends, for his appetite was good, and he eated all kind of meat in his usual manner, not in the least complaining of indigestion. Yet some time after, he became lean and his flesh fell away, which his parents and friends could not so soon be sensible of, as he was always of a thin habit of body, and continued to mind his business with his usual alacrity. In the beginning of summer, he tried a milk diet for some months, drinking goats milk and whey made from it, but without any benefit; in this state he continued till the month of

of

of *October*, at which time he was seized with a cough which was rather wet than dry, which he and his acquaintance imagined he had contracted from a *Cold* that was then epidemical, but contrary to all expectation it has remained with him till now, and he throws up a tough viscid *Pblegm* of a green colour, the cough being likewise more frequent and violent: about the tenth of this present *January*, he fell into most profuse night sweatings, attended with a great decay of his natural strength and loss of appetite.

DURING the whole course of the disease, he never complained of any pains in the breast or sides. His stools are every way as usual in health, and his urine is pale.

THUS, sir, I have given you a description of this worthy gentleman's case, as I had it from himself and friends. They wait with impatience for your advice, which will likewise oblige,

*Sir, your most  
devoted servant, &c.*

---

#### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER:

AFTER carefully considering the case, I am of opinion that the patient labours under a real consumption, from a suppuration in the *Lungs* after



after the spitting of blood : the progress the disorder has already made, which is evident from the wasting of his strength, sweatings in the night, and decay of his flesh, denotes a very bad state. The fears of the present and future misfortunes are still the greater, that so good remedies as were hitherto tryed have proved ineffectual, and the disease gained ground notwithstanding the best advice.

THE best method I can propose, is, that the gentleman should ride as much as he can every day when his stomach is empty, and endeavour to increase his journeys by degrees ; that he should go to bed at eight of the clock, and sleep in a bed well dried in a room on one of the high floors ; that he should rise betimes in the morning ; his ordinary drink should be fresh *Mead*, mixed with equal quantity of milk ; he may eat all kinds of grains prepared any how, soft herbs and greens, milk, river crabs, shellfish, and now and then be allowed a little fresh flesh. He ought to eat very sparingly at a time, and make the more meals.

LET him take every three hours in the day three of the *pills A*, drinking immediately after them three ounces of the liquor *B*. Let him likewise before he goes to bed, take off at once the draught *C*.

He

He may make a tryal of what I here propose for two months, to see if it will do any service: I pray God may bleſs it.

A.

R. Gum. Ammon. drach. ſs.  
Balaſam. Peruv. gutt. xv.  
Maſtich.  
Olibani  
Opopanax. ana drach. ſs.  
Succi Glycerb. inſiſſat. drach. iij.  
Terrebimbinas drach. ſs.

M. F. Pilulae. gr. iij.

B.

R. Recent. Agrimon.  
Betonie.  
Foenic.  
Hyſſopi  
Meliffae  
Veronic.  
Virg. Aur. ana Man.  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Theſe muſt be cut very ſmall and infuſed in boiling water like The: let there be prepared XVI ounces every day.

C.

R. Balaſam. Peruv. gutt. iij.  
Ol. Amygdal. dulc. drach. iij.  
Syrup. Diaced. drach. v.  
Vitelli ovi gr. xv.  
M. F. Hauſtulus.

LETTER

## LETTER IX.

A WORTHY lady about forty five years of age, of a thin habit of body, has complained for these two last years of a weakness in her joints; none enjoyed better health than she did formerly, unless that her strength was impaired from frequent child bearing, for she has born fifteen children, and thrice miscarried. She feels the weakness mostly in her left side, and there is now a constant swelling in both her arms and hands, such as old people are often subject to. She sometimes feels a pain, though very gentle in her arms and shoulders. She never had the smallest complaint with relation to her head, her breast or appetite. Her pulse is regular, and proportioned to her strength, and she has long and sound sleeps. Her spirits are low, and when she walks she staggers and is apt to fall.—— There is hardly any other symptom needful to be related; for from what I have already wrote, the nature of this disorder will be sufficiently understood by most physicians, and more particularly by you, who are so eminent in your profession. But as our assistance has hitherto proved fruitless, we have recourse



course to you, begging your advice. She drank the *Bath-waters* warm, which are a *chalybeat* mixed with *sulphur*, and that for six Week together. She has likewise tried for a long time *Castor*, *Asa Foetida*, wild *Valerian Root*, *Mart. Tincture* with the *Spa* water, but all to no purpose. The *Menses* return every fifth week so copious, that she is sometimes obliged to take astringents.

---

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

IN bodies which have so often been full and distended by pregnancy, and then emptied by births and miscarriages, the vessels become at last weak, lax and easily moved; from this cause proceed *varices*, (a) particularly in the womb, and many surprising changes in the different humours. As the *Nervous* system is also much weakened and changed, it produces *tremors*, and involuntary motions, with a copious discharge of blood from the *Uterus*, and all the other symptoms which I observe you have so carefully remark'd.

(a) WHEN the coats of a *vein* are from any cause over-stretched, they become flaccid, and yielding to the blood in that particular part bulge out, and raise the skin: This swelling is called *Varix*. The same happening in an *Artery* is termed *Aneurism*.

It

It is but too plain that the disease has taken deep root, since the lady has not been relieved by the good advice, and the many excellent remedies she has hitherto used. As I am a stranger and have no greater helps at command, I must find it very difficult to prescribe more proper remedies: I approve much of what has been tried, and think it ought to be continued, as the cure in these cases requires long time. What I should think would do most service, is a gentle constriction of the body by proper bandages and napkins, that so the vessels may be lightly pressed, and by the means of that pressure the liquors condensed. This remedy performs what we could not easily believe, nor obtain from other assistances, but always on this condition that it be used at first gently, and afterwards gradually and prudently increased. It will likewise be extremely proper to rub over all the back and belly pretty strongly with rough, dry, warm flannel; for I do not know a more powerful remedy against tremors which proceed from such a cause. A dry diet on roast beef and biscuit, with high seasoning of mustard, wild radish, and nutmeg will best agree with her, and to drink but little: To this we may join *Brunswick Mum*, of which she may drink before she goes to bed. As for medicines these are the best which strengthen, and at the same time do not by their acrimony

acrimony too roughly move the humours. The pills *A*, taken three times a day will suffice, an hour before breakfast, dinner and supper, always drinking after them one ounce of the medicinal wine *B*, This course must be kept to for six weeks, and gives us good hopes of a change much to the better.

## A.

*R. Catechu puriss.* drach. ij.

*Lapid. Haematis.* drach. ss.

*Majlich.* drach. j.

*Oliban.*

*Sarcocoll. ana* drach. jss.

*Rad. Rhei pulv.* drach. j.

*Terebinth.* gr. iij.

*M. F. Pil.* gr. iij.

## B.

*R. Cortic. Cappari.*

*Cinnam.*

*Tamarisc. ana* unc. ij.

*Ligni Santali citrin.* drach. vj.

*Limaturae Mart. rec. non rubigin.* dra. xij.

*Nucis Myristicae* drach. ij.

*Rad. Bistort.*

*Tormentilla* unc. iij.

*Semin. contus. Plantagin.* unc. iij.

Make all these into a gross powder, and with a sufficient quantity of Rhenish wine, let there be prepared *S. A.* a medicinal wine.

L E T.



## LETTER X.

SIR,

WE now apply for your advice, as we are persuaded that *you* (if any one) can give us relief: The patient's case is as follows.——

He has no sort of feeling unless that of cold, from his feet up towards the pit of the stomach; the middle of his legs and ridge of his back are particularly stupified, as is lately also his breast and neck. He complains of a constant constriction, which like a rope binds all the region that lies betwixt the navel and stomach about four inches on each side, squeezing the ribs and then mounting higher produces nausea's and vomitings. 'Tis now about twelve years since a pricking and itching seized the sole of his left foot attended with heat, and next morning the whole leg and sole of his right foot were affected in the same manner: About fourteen days after, he lost all manner of feeling in these parts, which could not be recovered by the exercise of walking, friction, or sweating. This *Numbness* gradually ascended, and after he was let blood spread over all the belly. He went then to *Bath* where he received great benefit from the hot bath, and often as he was washing

washing the sense of feeling returned as low as his knees, but went quickly off. For some years afterwards he again tryed the warm bath, but to no purpose: he then used the cold bath, and walked after it till he sweated, but with equal success. By the advice of a Quack he took a certain purging medicine every ninth day, besides a *sudorific* he used daily; the effect of these was, that in a moments time all the vital heat seemed to leave his body, nor had he any feeling left but in one place of his belly. He then let blood twice a year, and had many different ointments applied to the spine of his back. The only remedy that seemed to do him service was riding, which he too much neglected: he has likewise sometimes a loose belly, which always agrees with him, as does also warm weather. 'Tis now nine years ago, that he first was seized with the oppression at the stomach which has since increased, and that same year, he complained of the uneasy sensation of cold along his back. He is a baker by trade, and now about fifty five years old; he himself imagines that he contracted this disorder from the many heats and sweats his employment exposed him to. He is of a sanguine pale complexion, and always loses his breath on using motion. His hairs are black and thin, he uses a moderate light diet. His spirits are pretty good, and he goes seldom

to stool. I beg the favour of your advice and prescriptions in this case, which will be most acceptable to me, who can never forget the many obligations I am under to you.

*I am, Sir, &c., &c.*

---

### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

**A**FTER carefully considering the case, I am of opinion that the cause of the disorder is seated in the nerves, and that principally proceeding from their being too slightly affected which impedes the sense of feeling. It will be exceeding proper to cause the patients back be well rubbed from the neck to the *os sacrum* with rough, dry, warm cloths; this must be done every morning as soon as he rises, and that for a good time and pretty vehemently: then must be applied over all the part a leather girdle three inches broad, on which the plaister *A*, has first been spread. This must be worn night and day, nor ever laid aside but during the time of rubbing, and then immediately be put on again. He must use a great deal of exercise, and let him thrice a day when his stomach is empty, take five of the pills *B*, with one ounce of the liquor *C*. All I have recom-



recommended must be carefully performed for the space of six weeks, in hopes of a cure, which I pray God may grant.

H. B.

A.

R. *Emplast. Melilot.*

*Galban pur.* ana unc. j.

*Olei Castorei* unc. ss.

M. pro Emplastro.

B.

R. *Gummi. Ammon.* drach. j.

*Aloe fastid.* drach. ss.

*Balsam. Capayb.* gr. xv.

*Bulbi Ari rec.* drach. jss.

*Castorei*

*Cerei,* ana gr. xv.

*Myrrhæ,* drach. ij.

*Terebinth.* gr. xij.

M. F. Pil. sing. gr. iij.

C.

R. *Aq. Stillat. Lavendul.*

*Rosmarin.*

*Rutæ,*

*Salviæ,* ana unc. iv.

*Spir. Sal. Ammon.* dr. ij.

*Tinct. Succini* drach. j.

M.

E 2

LET.

## LETTER XI.

A GENTLEMAN fifty years old, who always lived in a hurry of business, and eat and drank very heartily, using at the same time a good deal of exercise, was seized some few years ago with a scorbutic humour, which first attacked his gums, and afterwards he complained of a swelling of his stomach after eating, and painful motions in his guts: he had formerly enjoyed a very good state of health, and imagined his stomach and guts to be affected in that manner, from his slow digestion. When these symptoms first attacked him, he had two issues cut near his shoulders, which have been kept running ever since, and brought him some relief. For some months bygone he has been troubled with the *Hæmorrhoids* to a great degree, which return by very short fits; they bleed but little, nor is there any considerable swelling externally: the surgeon who examined the part does not think there is any danger of a fistula. The gentleman himself is of opinion, that this was brought on from the long sederunts he had during the session of parliament: He has taken *Æthiops mineral* in large doses, and

and made likewise many external applications, but all to no purpose.

*I am, Sir,*

*Your most humble servant, &c.*

---

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

THE disorder appears to me to be owing to a collection of viscid matter in the *Vasa Hypochondriaca*, which turning acrid, corrodes the bowels and guts; perhaps too begets worms, and afterwards proves proper food for them. It will be proper to take thrice a day, a hour before breakfast, dinner and supper, when the stomach is most empty three of the pills *A*, drinking immediately after them one ounce of the liquor *B*. The gentleman must at the same time use a great deal of exercise, especially at those hours he takes his *Physic*, and I principally recommend riding.

He may make three meals a day, and eat sparingly each time, which is much better than loading his stomach at once. In the morning when he awakes, all his belly and sides must be well rubbed with flannel, as smartly as he can bear. He ought to go to bed betimes, and rise early, and dispatch his business in the forenoon.



This course carefully observed for six weeks gives good hopes of a recovery, which I pray god grant.

H. B.

A.

*R. Gumm. Ammon.* drach. ss.

*Ase foetid.* drach. j.

*Balsam. Meccani* gutt. x.

*Bulbi Ari rec.* drach. j.

*Croci* gr. x.

*Curcumae* drach. ss.

*Galbani,*

*Rhei,* ana drach. j.

*Terebinth.* gr. xv.

*M. F. Pil.* gr. iij.

B.

*R. Aq. Stillat. Coclear.*

*Majoran.*

*Melissae,*

*Palgij*

*Rosmarin.*

*Rutae.*

*Salviae* ana unc. j.

*Spir. Lavendul.*

*Rosmarin.* ana unc. ss.

*Tinz. Succini* drach. ij.

M.

LETTER

## •• LETTER XII.

SIR,

THE many civilities I have received from you, encourage me to ask one more, which is to go to Dr. *Boerhaave* and ask his Advice in this Case.

AN old gentleman in years a relation of mine, has been much troubled for these two years past, with what he imagines the gravel; it comes away from him in red gritty sand, but lately he has had very great pain in making water, and suffers great pain if he rides on the pavement in a coach, it making him then make bloody water, so that he apprehends there is a stone in the bladder, or one a forming; therefore he desires to know what course or regimen Dr. *Boerhaave* advises, whether he knows or believes there is any thing to be prescribed, as a *Saxifrage*, or whether he thinks the *Spa* waters are good to wash or carry away such a disorder, and what *Spa* he would advise, and whether he must be obliged to go to *Spa* and drink them on the spot, or whether the waters can be sent here as to be of effect, and in short, let him take time to consider and send him his full opinion and advice of this disorder.

E 4

PRAY

PRAY send word what diet and constant drink at meals he prescribes the patient.—He has been advised here to the inclosed electuary which he is now taking, of which I send the original receipt, which you will be pleased to shew Dr. Boerhaave for his approbation.

R. Pulp. Cassie recent. extract. unc. jss.

Rhei opt. pulveriz. drach. j.

Terebinth. & Chio probè lot. dr. vii.

Spec. Diatrachacant. frigid. scrup. j.

Pulver. Glycyrrhiz. dr. ss.

Mix these together in a sufficient quantity of Syrup of Marsh Mal-  
lows. Take the quantity of a walnut in the morning fasting, drink  
after it a pint of Beer posset-drink with nutmeg and sugar. Keep  
warm all the morning, take this at the new and full of the moon,  
beginning six days before the change every other morning, for you  
must be sure to take it every new and full moon three times each.

N. B. The patient finds something foreish on the neck of his  
bladder, whether it proceeds from the gravel fretting as  
it passes, or a little stone pressing, which makes him  
piss often, he cannot tell.

### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE considered the gravillish incommo-  
dity with blood watering, and after all the  
application possible to me upon it, I am able to  
say,

1st, THAT



1<sup>st</sup>, THAT a little, but a sharp stone, is found and lodged in the kidneys, which being rubbed through great motion of the body, principally in a coach on the pavement, made a solution in the blood vessels there.

2<sup>d</sup>, THE pain in making water is not all times a sign that there is a stone in the bladder, but soon it arrive \* that there is the greatest in these, where the cause is only situated in the kidneys self.

3<sup>dly</sup>, SUPPOSING the case is so, I know no better method to cure it safely, than that the patient will drink for his common drinking, simple fresh whey, boiled with a little chervil and sweetened with a little honey, that these is the healthfomest in this case, but the whey must be made twice a day that it may not sower; a little canary at dinner and supper for the stomach shall be good:

4<sup>thly</sup>, ALL sorts of vegetable meats are the best here, from kitchen herbs, ripe fruits, and farinous kinds.

5<sup>thly</sup>, EVERY three hours of the day shall be kept † a scruple of the mass, A, immediately drinking upon it two ounces hot from the decoction B, this must be so still continued the whole day from morning to evening, at least six weeks

A. succed-

\* It often happens:

† taken

successive: I cannot doubt, it shall do very great good effect; god bless it,

CONCERNING the use of the Spa in this case it is very doubtful, because the Power from these waters is very driving, \* if then the stone is very small, more time it is thriven out, but if the stone is bigger than it can pass through the water canall going from the kidneys to the bladder, great danger of stopping the urine is made and hath killed many body by imprudent use of it; therefore I never recommend it in such cases, before I know the stone is little enough to pass, which is not all times easy to discern.

THE method I have recommended do more good than any other in such a singular case, as I find here, and therefore I am more sure thereof, because it hath never any danger in one, and it do all times very great benefits. (a)

HUBB

(a) THE caution *Borbaave* here gives about the imprudent use of the Spa, is of the utmost importance, and ought to be attended to more particularly in this country, where it is so much the custom to use different Spa's in those cases; which are all of a forcing nature, less or more, and consequently to be suspected.

\* forcing.

A.

A.

*R. Cassia ops. rec. fissul. extract. drach. vi.**Manna bestissima unc. j.**Masticba**Glibani**Rhei ana drach. j.**Succi Glycyrrhiz. inspissat. depurats. dr. vi.**Terebinth. puriss. drach. jss.**M. F. Mella.*

B.

*R. Flor. rec. Alb.**Rheorad. ana unc. ss.**Fel. rec. Parietar.**Scabiosa**Nirg. aur. ana m. jss.**Rad. rec. Fenic. unc. iij.**Glycyrrhiz. unc. jss.*

Boil these in fresh water for the space of half an hour. Then add to them one ounce of Aniseed well beaten, and closing the vessel keep it hot without boiling for an hour longer. Let there be about four pints of the Decoction.

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## • • • LETTER XIII

I HAD the small pox when I was five years old very severely, immediately after which there fell a disorder in my eyes, which shewed itself in blood-shot, weakness and violent watering, sometimes attended with a very great pain. They



They continued so for four or five years, during which time, I tried all kinds of remedies, such as shaving the head, cold bathing, sweating, diet, bleeding, blistering, &c. with great variety of applications to my eyes; such as waters, ointments, and cooling poultices, but received no continued benefit from any. When I was nine or ten years old, they began to mend of themselves, and continued perfectly well and strong for six years, at the end of which time they relapsed into the old way, with this difference only that I have intervals in which they are pretty well: it is now about five years since the return of this disorder, in all which time I have not been able to make much use of my eyes, for upon any trial of them, they become blood-shot, weak and so very painful, that I have been sometimes obliged to sit in the dark for a month together. I have tried all the old remedies with many new ones, but to as little purpose as before; for upon the least provocation, nay sometimes without the least visible cause, I shall have very severe fits of sore eyes, which continue a great while. I have otherwise thank god a very good constitution, and can complain of no other disorder, except a little tenderness with regard to catching cold, which I take to be occasioned by

the frequent confinements I am obliged to undergo. My colds seldom shew themselves any way but in my eyes.

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BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

THE more carefully I consider the history of the disorder of the eyes, the stronger are my suspicions, that the small vessels which form the muscles of the *Pupilla*, have too tender a feeling, to indure that contraction which is necessary for receiving the rays of light. I am not at all surprized then that so many remedies and different methods have hitherto proved ineffectual, as it is scarcely possible to apply there what would be proper to remove this cause. After thinking again on the case, I advise the patient.

1<sup>st</sup>, EVERY morning and evening to bath his legs in warm water for the space of half an hour.

2<sup>dly</sup>, THEN he must cause them to be rubbed smartly, with rough dry warm cloths and continue this a good time.

3<sup>dly</sup>, LET there be apply'd every third day two cupping glasses to the hind neck: this must be done while he is bathing, and they may remain about half an hour without scarifying; then remove them and gently rub the part.

4<sup>thly</sup>,

4thly, He ought constantly to use green glass preserves (as is the custom in Spain) whenever light or colours strike his eyes; this is the chief article in what I have to advise.

5thly, He ought often to wash his eyes with warm water, then diminishing it's heat by degrees use at last cold water; this must be done every week gradually, that so his eyes may be brought to bear the cold.

6thly, Let him every morning before breakfast drink two ounces warm of the liquor A, and as much in the evening at six a clock. All I have recommended must be observed for three months, in hopes of relief.

H. B.

A.

R. Flor. Cyan. Seget.

Sambuci ana pug. ss.

Rad. rot. Fenic. unc. ss.

Semin. contus. Anisi drach. ij.

These must be cut very small, and infused in rain water all night, and covered. Let them boil for a minute in the morning, and to 14 ounces of the liquor thus prepared, add always vi drach. of the Rob. of elder berries, for daily use.

LET-



## \* \* \* LETTER XIV.

**I**N the beginning of June 1724, I was taken ill with a violent fever, which began with a vomiting and looseness, and turned into an aguish intermitting disorder, which confined me to my house four months. The Doctor ordered me in the beginning to be vomited, blooded, and purged with *Rhubarb*, and afterwards I took a great deal of *Bark* in substance with simple bitters, and when the weather would allow and I was able, I went abroad; I recovered very slowly, and was about twelve months very feeble and weak, and subject to take cold. The first thing that hardened me against the weather was the use of a salt cold bath, so that I was in a confirmed state of health for four years, till April 1728, when I was taken again with the same disorder, though it did not rise to so great a height. I went through the same medicines as before. I was confined with this six Weeks, and gradually recovered, and continued pretty well till December; when I was confined a month by the same disorder. I observed the same rules as before, and recovered pretty well as the same season of the year advanced, and continued well till

June

June 1729. I was confined near a month at this time; I only took the *Bark* in tincture, and simple bitters, I had a return of it September following, but it continued only a short time: I continued well for about two years, when November 1731, I was taken ill in my head and stomach, as it used to begin, I vomited with *Ipecacuana*, after this vomit I found ease, but in a few days grew worse, therefore I took another vomit and the tincture of the *Bark*, which did not remove my disorder, and therefore took the *Bark* in substance, but notwithstanding my disorder prevailing, I had recourse to a third, and afterwards a fourth vomit. I took a glass of bitter wine twice a day, and when the weather allowed went abroad on horse back: I was confined this time three months, I continued pretty well till the twenty third of March 1734, when I was taken with it again. It began with a gentle looseness as it usually does, and though my looseness is very gentle, yet it exceedingly dispirits me; when I found the uneasiness of my head, stomach and loss of appetite, I took a vomit of *Ipecacuana*, and next day took the *Bark* in substance, both which I repeated a second time, and though I had frequent dejections and apprehensions on my spirits it gradually left me; I was taken ill the eighth time, and was relieved by the same medicines.

THE

THE physicians term it an aguish, nervous intermitting disorder; the symptoms and warning I have of its approach are; sometimes before I am costive, afterwards have a looseness, lose my appetite, my head and stomach are very much affected, my head and temples are so affected, that I can scarce shave my forehead, or touch my temples, I have a noise in my ears and wind and pain frequently in my bowels. Sometimes I am cold, and chiefly at other times warm, my skin is discoloured, and will smart as if stung with nettles; I do not sleep well, but am troubled with frightful dreams, as also with great sickness and languidness over my whole body, and a great heaviness and oppression of spirits; in the hot fits I make a great deal of limpid, clear water which is without sediment, and is more in proportion than what I drink, I lose my flesh and strength, but am free of a cold or spitting.

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#### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

**I** BELIEVE there has been a great disposition of the body to the fever, which has been suddenly stopped by the *Bark*, hence an obstruction in the viscera and an indigestion, which I think by proper exercise, diet and method of physick,

F

may



may be cured intirely; you must go to bed at nine, rise at five, and do all the affairs of attention before dinner; after dinner at times take moderate exercise of the body, walking, riding, &c. I see no use of the cold bath, in these cases; all sorts of soft vegetables are good, also roasted fresh flesh and river fish, and a moderate glass of good *French* wine at dinner, and supper; for common drink good small beer, not too strong, nor too old.

TAKE five pills *A*, an hour before breakfast, dinner and supper, with a spoonful of the liquor *B*, this is the best method to prevent the return of the fit; but if the fever notwithstanding should return, take the powder *C*, eight hours before the fit, only one time, and drink every three hours of the day, a spoonful of the liquor *D*, by which method continued two weeks. I foresee you will remove the fits (*a*).

H. B.

(*a*) The case here described is most frequent amongst us, as the *Bark* is often given imprudently, and in immoderate quantities. *Barbados* (it is true) was no great admirer of it, and never gave it but in extreme necessity, and then in very small doses. He was often consulted from this country in the disorders so naturally described in this letter, and constantly prescribed the medicines here recommended, which as they had surprizing success, might be the occasion of his writing more confidently about them than his usual manner was.

A. R.

## A.

R. Myrrh. elect. unc. iij.

Sapon. Venet. drach. jv.

Terebinth. drach. j.

M. F. Pil. gr. iij.

## B.

R. Ag. Stillar. Cochlear. unc. ij.

Melissa unc. iv.

Salvia unc. iij.

Spir. vite Matthiol. unc. ss.

Tinct. Succin. drach. ij.

## M.

## C.

R. Lapid. Cancr. drach. ss.

Rhei gr. xv.

Scamm. gr. viij.

Stib. diaphor. gr. xxv.

F. pulvis.

## D.

R. Ag. Stillar. Salvia lb. j.

Sul. Polychrest. drach. ij.

Spir. Cochlear. drach. iij.

Tinct. Contrajerv. drach. vj.

## M.

F 2

L E T.

## LETTER XV.

I HAVE for a great while been in an unhappy way of miscarrying, and have tried all the ways to prevent it, that I have been advised to by the physicians here; and therefore beg leave to state my case to you.

I HAVE miscarried twelve times within eight years, not always about the same time: for the first three times, I believe I went nearer seven months; than six. The children were born alive and strong; one of them lived twelve hours; and I have since gone four or five months, and sometimes not above twelve weeks, I have taken a great many medicines by order of Dr. D—and by his orders likewise confined to my House for four or five months, and a great part of that Time to my room. I have some reason to suspect the cause of my misfortune was by being ill used by my midwife, therefore subjected my self wholly to his directions, who sent me to the *Bath* to drink the waters and bathe; which method proving unsuccessful, I applied to Dr. H.—by whose orders I used the cold bath, and the next time I miscarried went to *Tunbridge*, there drank the waters and used the cold bath. I was with child soon after



after I came home, whereupon I consulted Dr. D—— what to do, who advised me to take no medicines at all, only keep my self quiet, and continue the cold bath; which I did till the day I was taken ill to miscarry. In the whole I used the cold bath a year and a half; the two last times I have been with child I have done nothing at all, not so much as bleed, which I used to do twice at least in the space of four or five months.

DR. D——tells me the cause of my disorder is a weakness, and may proceed from my constitution. I am between thirty one and thirty two, have very good spirits and stomach; and have never as I remember been confined a day to my bed, but for this complaint.

It is but a little time since my last miscarriage, and am willing to follow any advice you shall direct me to now; or if I should be with child again.

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#### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

*Madam,*

**H**AVING considered your case, I am thinking there is a weakness in the vessels of the womb, whereby nature is not able long enough to retain the child.

If you are not at \* child at present; it may please you to take five days successively every morning the purging *A*, at six of the clock; and the same evening at six of the clock the cordial *B*, during the course of five days you shall eat vegetables, broth, milk, remain at home and take care not to get cold.

THE sixth day you shall begin the use of the pills *C*, and the medicinal wine *D*, thrice a day three pills at a time one hour before breakfast, dinner and supper; drinking immediately after these pills one ounce of the medicinal wine.

THOSE shall be continued during the whole course of your being with child, in which time you may eat and drink what shall be most pleasing to you, and moderate motion is necessary.

THESE is the best methods I know, I hope the effects may be blessed, and am your most humble servant,

H. B.

A.

R. Myrobalan. Citrin. sine nucl. drach. ss.

Rhei electi gr. xxxvj.

Make these into a powder which must be infused in water all night, and the vessel closed. Let it be well stirred in the morning, and to two ounces of the colature add of the best Manna drach. iij. Syrup. Cichor. cum Rheo drach. jv. Mix altogether for a purging potion.

B.

\* with

## B.

R. *Aq. Stillat. cortic. Citri* unc. ij.

*Spir. Vitæ Matthioli* drach. j.

*Tinctur. Opii* gutt. x.

*Succini* gutt. xv.

M. F. Haustulus.

## C.

R. *Catechu* drach. ij.

*Cort. Granator.* drach. j.

*Masticb.* dra. jfs.

*Oliban.* drach. j.

*Sarcocoll.* drach. jfs.

*Rhei* drach. fs.

*Succini ppsi.* drach. j.

*Terebinth.* gr. vj.

*Ol. Stillat. Cinnam.* gutt. viij.

M. F. S. A. *Pilulae* sing. gr. iij.

## D.

R. *Cort. Capparid.* unc. ij.

*Cinnam.* unc. jfs.

*Tamarisc.* unc. j.

*Ligni Agalloch.* drach. ij.

*Santal. Citrin.* drach. iij.

*Lapid. Hæmatit.* drach. j.

*Limat Martis* drach. vj.

*Maceris*

*Nuci Moschatæ* ana drach. iij.

*Rad. Lepatb. acut.* drach. j.

*Semin. 4 calid. min.* ana drach. jfs.

Mix all these together and beat them into a fine powder, wbenes  
with vj pints of rhenish wine let there be made a medicinal wine.



## LETTER XVI.

THIS gentleman is aged sixty eight years, of a corpulent habit, at the beginning of last summer was seized with the yellow jaundice, tried many physicians and medicines. Six weeks since he put himself in my care, upon inquiry I found the medicines he made use of by the advice of his former physicians, were the aperients commonly prescribed in that disorder, but without any effect towards a cure.

HIS countenance was then of a very dark colour, he had a perpetual laxity (though not a *Diarrhoea*) his stools wanted the yellow tincture, his water was highly saturated with *bile*, his body and head very yellow, his stomach much diminished.

I ordered him to let blood first of all, to the quantity of  $\text{℥xij}$ . the crassament of which was covered with a coat of *bile* and *phlegm* exceeding tough, I ordered to vomit with *Ipecacuan* once a week; and gave him a purge or two of *Rhubarb*, and lenitives for his laxative disposition, then I purged him about twice a week with a bolus of gr. xii. of *Calomel* to be taken going to bed, and a potion next morning made of a decoction of *Rad.*

*Curcum.*

*Curcum. Tinē. Rub. Sal. Tartar.* in cinnamon water, to which was added *Senna, Rbubarb, Cremor Tartar, Crocus*. Lastly to the colature of the whole was added syrup *de Rhabarb.* ʒj. In the intermediate days I gave him an electuary composed of chalybeates, aromatics, attenuants, deterfives, and stomachicks drinking after it infus. *chalybeat. amar. Loweri*, afterwards I added to the electuary *Æthiops mineral*, his appetite is indifferently good, and is not made sick by any thing he eats, his stools are come almost to a natural colour, and his urine abundantly less tinged with bile, his strength increases and he does much business.

P. S. THE gentleman has for many years laboured under a scorbutic habit of body, and since the fourteenth of *October*, we perceive his legs to swell much more about the ancles, and appear dropfical, his belly tight and seemingly stuffed up; besides, now he is much afflicted with cough, and spits a tough viscous phlegm at several times, he has also voided blood in his loose stools.

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#### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE carefully considered the description sent me of this grievous and dangerous disease. It appears to be a *bilious* disorder, proceeding from  
an

an obstruction in the passages of the *bile* now tending to a compleat dropsy. The winter season, the advanced age of the patient and long continuance of the disease, are very bad omens; to these we must add the little success the many and excellent remedies hitherto tried have had, and the consideration of his original distemper, being an obstinate scurvy.

THE best advice I can give in these present circumstances, is to recommend to the worthy gentleman the pills *A*, of which he ought to take five every two hours of the day, drinking each time after them one ounce of the liquor *B*. This he may try for a month, that we may then judge if these remedies are able to give any relief in this dangerous case. He must in the mean time every morning and evening have his belly well rubbed with dry, rough, warm cloths, and this as long and smartly as he can indure it: This will be of the greatest help in opening and clearing the obstructed vessels, and he must all along use continual exercise of body, walking, ridings in a machine, &c. as his strength will permit. His diet must be mostly on greens and pot herbs, *Sorrel*, *Beet*, red *Cabbage*, *Succbory*, *Endive*, *Lettice*, *Spinage*, and now and then a glass of some strong bodied wine or *Brunswic Mum*: all this the nature



nature of the disorder itself points out to us. I heartily pray and hope for his recovery from the careful observance of this regimen.

H. B.

A.

*R. Bulbi. Ari rec. drach. j.*

*Ase foetid. gr. xv.*

*Balsam Capayb. scrup. j.*

*Croci gr. xv.*

*Rhei drach. j.*

*Sapon. Vent. unc. ls.*

*Terebinth. gr. x.*

*M. F. Pil. gr. iv.*

B.

*R. Ay. Stillat. Baccar. Juniper.*

*Cochlear. ana unc. vj.*

*Sal. Polychrest. drach. ij.*

*Tartar. Vitriolat. drach. j.*

*Rob Baccar. Juniper. unc. rv.*

*Spir. rectificat. Baccar. Junip. unc. jss.*

*Tincturas Myrrhas unc. j.*

M.

LETTER

## LETTER XVII.

A YOUNG gentleman in *North Britain* aged twenty three years, of a swarthy complexion, has been these several years troubled with pains in his stomach and hypochondres, attended with the ordinary symptoms of constipation, faintness, and flatuosities; he has scorbutic blotches on his legs, and frequently a cough, which is not violent; and altogether without any pus, or appearance of ulceration; what afflicts him most is a small, sharp headed, white worm, which he passes sometimes in great plenty; he has often taken of the *atbiops mineral*, and doses of the *Pil. coeb. min.* & *tinctura sacra*. When he was blooded lately his blood was good. He has just now a swelling under his ear, which appeared after using too violent exercise, and over heating himself.

## \* \* BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

HAVING considered the description of this case, I am thinking there is an obstruction in the glands over all the body, and tenia in the bowels. It may please the gentleman to take three times in a day, at \* an empty stomach, one hour

\* with

hour before breakfast, dinner, and supper, at every time three pills *A*, with an ounce of the liquor *B*, and to continue this so six weeks successively; I believe it will be very healthsome in the sickness.

*H. B.*

*A.*

*R. Albes optimi drach. ss.*

*Asae foetid. drach. j.*

*Camphor. gr. v.*

*Castor. gr. vj.*

*Myrror drach. j.*

*Sagapum drach. jss.*

*Succin. ppi drach. j.*

*Terebint. gr. vj.*

*Viriol. Mart. drach. jss.*

*M. f. pill. gr. iij.*

*B.*

*R. Aq. Stillat. Cocblear.*

*Rutas ana lb. j.*

*Elixir. pp. cum sp. Tartar. ppi. drach. jv.*

*Sal. volatil. Oleos. drach. iv.*

*Spir. Cocblear.*

*Tinct. succini ana, drach. ij.*

*M.*

*LET-*



## ••• LETTER XVIII

A YOUNG lady now in the seventh year of her age, was first towards the end of December 1731, taken with a pain and heaviness in her head, and disposition to vomit, and next day and the day after continued to be a little feverish, the fifth day she complained more of pain in her head, and was taken with a vomiting of large quantities of *bile* and *chole*, her eyes and skin appeared yellow the next day, and her urine tinged a piece of linnen of a saffron colour, she then took xij gr. of *Ipecacuana* which vomited her well, and brought up large quantities of *bile*. To settle her stomach she took this draught.

R. *Succ. Limon* drach. ij.

*Sal. Absynth.* scrup. ss.

*Aq. Meliss.*

*Cinnamom. Hbrd.* ana drach. vi.

*Spirit. Mentb.* gtt. xxx.

*Syr. dialb.* drach. ij.

M. F. Haustus.

THIS draught settled her stomach, she rested well, and after it was twice repeated, the vomiting and fever went quite off.

BUT

BUT the yellowness continuing on her skin and eyes, she the next day began to take the following,

R. *Croc. Anglic.*

*Sal. Absynth.* ana drach. j.

*Limon. test.* No. j.

*Vin. Rhenan.* lb. j.

infunde per 24 hor.

She took a spoonful twice a day, and a day or two after at night she took ℥j of *Rhubarb*, which gave her two stools of a clay colour, she continued the use of the infusion for three days more, then took ℥ss more of *Rhubarb*, which purged her also twice; upon this the yellowness went off gradually, and her ladyship grew perfectly well.

TOWARDS the end of *January* she was again taken with a sickness and vomiting, and brought up but little *bile*, her pulse was quick, she complained of a pain in her head, there appeared a heaviness in her eyes, and a blueness under them, and her urine a little higher coloured than usual, for it is generally palish with sometimes a pink colour, sometimes a whitish sediment, with salts swimming on the surface, next day she was pretty well, though not so brisk and lively as usual.

ON the first of *February* Dr. ——— and ——— visited her and prescribed her ℥j of *Rhubarb* with gr. v. of *Sal. Absynth.* twice a week, and on the inter-

intermediate days, a dose of *Sal. Absynth.* twice a day, and viii drops of *Spir. of Nitr. dulc.* now and then in *Bristol* water, and in a little time she seemed perfectly well. *March* the eleventh following they prescribed the scorbutic juices ʒj. twice a day, having first purged her with *Rhubarb* and *Sal. Absynth.* as before, which agreed well with her ladyship till the twentieth of *March*, when she was again seized with a very great sickness and disorder as before, which brought away an abundance of blood, and corrupt matter in the excrements, she was observed to be often picking her nose, and look blackish under her eyes. *March* the twenty third they prescribed as follows.

*R. Calomelan.* gr. v.

*Rhei pulv.* gr. xv.

*Syr. violar.*

*Q. S. F. Bolus.*

This purged her well, and brought up by vomit a great deal of choler, and she grew well and brisk again, soon after this they ordered her to take of *Æthiops mineral* and pulv. e *Cbel. Cancr. Simpl.* ʒss. every night with three spoonfuls of the following Julep.

*R. Aq.*



R. *Aq. Ceras. Nigræ. unc. vj.*

*Pison. compoſit. unc. jſſ.*

*Margarit. ꝑp. ſcrap ij.*

*Sacchar. Alb drach. ij.*

M. F. Julap.

ABOUT the twenty ninth of *March* the bolus with calomel was repeated, which purged and vomited her very well.

*April* the eighth following, ſhe was taken with a conſiderable fever attended with pains in the back and head, vomiting and many ſymptoms of the ſmall pox, for twenty four hours; when the fever abated, ſhe drank the *Sal. Abſynth.* draught, cum *Syr. Dialib.* as before. In her urine appeared a great deal of red gravel adhering to films, or ſmall hair floating in her urine, ſince then there have been ſeveral returns of theſe diſorders ſometimes at two months, ſometimes at fix or ſeven weeks diſtance ſometimes with, ſometimes without a fever, and a yellowneſs appears upon her countenance, when the diſorder goes off; generally ſhe has been kept to a regular dyet, generally ſleeps well, is brisk and lively, is of a ſanguine habit, and florid countenance.

YOUR opinion, ſir, upon her caſe, and the method you would propoſe to proceed in, both as

G

to

to medicine and diet, as particular as may be, is ardently desired by her parents as soon as possible.

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### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I RECEIVED and read with the closest attention your letter, wherein you give so accurate a description of the young ladies disorder: you shall have my opinion on it in the most open and candid manner, as I intirely submit my own sentiments to the opinion of better judges.

IN the *Liver* or *Gall-bladder* there is (I believe) a thick gritty matter lodged, and small stones, which intercept the *Bile* in its passage to the *Duodenum*; this (*Bile*) being detained and collected proves painful to the full vessels, and at last forces *Nature* to throw it back by means of a fever and vomiting into the *Vena Cava*, which produces a species of *jaundice*. Thus the lovely patient seems relieved for some time; but how soon a new quantity of *Bile* arrives at the vessels, the same series of mischiefs begins again, and must repeat the old route, coming and returning, till the original cause be removed.

THERE is great danger of the *Viscera* being broken by such repeated and violent strokes, unless wise counsel timely prevents it; the young lady

lady likewise runs the risk of a fatal dropſy, from too great a reſolution of the blood by the affuſion of the *Bile*.

WHAT will prove the beſt remedy in this caſe, is frequently to eat of the *aperient* herbs and roots boiled along with fleſh: ſuch is parſly, and that all the kinds of it, red Cabbage, Chervil, Succory, Endive, Scorzonera, Pariſhops, Goats-beard: likewiſe all ripe ſummer fruits, Raspberries, Strawberryes, Cherries, Goſeberryes, Mulberryes and ſuch like. What will likewiſe be of great ſervice is freſh whey, made of milk taken from the cows in the ſpring ſeaſon, and ſweetened with honey: I know no one remedy that is a ſtronger diluent, or that more effectually temperates the *Bile*, opens the ſeveral paſſages, looſens the belly and reduces the *Gall* to its proper canals, than this does.

It will likewiſe be proper to have the patients belly and breaſt well rubbed every morning and evening for half an hour, with rough, dry, warm cloths; this muſt be done gently and in different directions: I pray this article may be carefully performed, and that when her ſtomach is moſt empty.

SHE ought likewiſe to ride in a machine on the ſtreets, about an hour before dinner, and as much before ſupper every day: the rougher this



exercise is, it is so much the better, as it will shake her body.

I WOULD recommend by way of *Physic*, though it will be difficult to cause so young a patient take it, one ounce of the decoction *A*, to be drunk warm, and this every morning an hour before breakfast, and dinner, and in the evening an hour before she sups, and again at ten o'clock of night, in case she should then awake or be stirring. This is the safest and most effectual remedy I know. But if she cant be prevailed on to use this, then we must betake ourselves to the *Succedaneum B*, though I cannot so much commend it. Let her drink of it a spoonful, or one ounce every three hours. These medicines must be used at least for two months, for the disorder has by this time taken deep root, and would require pretty vehement remedies, when in this case the tender age and constitution of the patient admit only of those which are mild and easy; we must then compensate this by long use.

I PRAY God, these helps or such as are better may perfectly cure the disease.

H. B.

A.

A.

R. *Radic. Rscnt. Apii**Bardane**Graminis**Foeniculi**Petroseliniana* unc. j.

Scissae & contusae digerantur in aq. Pluviat. vase clauso non  
ebulliendo p. horam; tum adde.

*Aceti Acori ex Vino nrach.* vj.*Sal. Tartar.* opt. drach. ss.

Ebulliant simul spatio sem. horae tum.

Decocti uncij. xiv. admisce

*Syrup.* 5. rad. aperient. unc. jss.

B.

R. *Aq. stillat. Rutae* unc. xj.*Sal. Polybrest.* drach. j.*Tartar, Vitriol.* drach. ss.*Vitriol. Martis* gr. xij.*Syr.* 5. rad. aperient. unc. ss.

M.

## • • • L E T T E R X I X.

THE lady who begs your advice is very often  
vexed with an hysterick cholick, which  
first attacks her with a coldness of the extreame, a  
languor, a trembling pulse (which is hard) then  
her stomach begins to be troubled with *Flatus*;  
then her pain, which is excessive sharp attacks her,

which sometimes will continue a day or more, during which time no medicines or whatever she takes afford any warmth to her stomach. The medicines she takes are of the nervous tribe, none of which afford more relief than castor with volatiles, and some warm aromatics; her appetite is sometimes rather too sharp, which is succeeded by a distention of the hypochondriac regions, a gnawing pain of the stomach, her appetite gone, lowness of spirits, a fluttering pulse and ends in a looseness, after which her appetite returns and is generally succeeded, after each day she has an appetite, with the symptoms above: her pulse is always quick and hard, and on any surprises of joy or fear, or any little hurry of business, is fluttering and irregular.

THE said ladies little ones have been all of them affected with the same disorders, they being first when about four or five months old seized with an hectic fever, which generally attends them during the time of dentition; they have had sometimes a sharp appetite, which often occasions them to eat so freely as to be obliged to throw it up again; sometimes have been much troubled with a looseness, at other times continual reachings, they sweat every night, are often troubled with a cough and difficulty of breathing; the two eldest are got through this stage, but the least is now troubled with



with the symptoms above, with the addition of an eruption, which has been all over her, sometimes red, resembling an *Erysipelas*, sometimes will be very pale with eruptions, with a white matter, sometimes the eruption will resemble the crystal pack (after her being bad of which her eruptions began) they have all been pretty much afflicted with a shrieking, or a wailing cry during their illness; their pulse is generally quick and their temperament warm; their medicines have been *Rhubarb*; wine purges with restoratives powders, and the bark either in the syrup, or externally applied to their stomachs, and now and then *Diacodium* at night for her eruptions, has taken calomel purges, and dressed them with *Unguentum Piperinum*, *Balsam*, and has had *Argentum viv.* boiled in water, and her jellies and meat made of it.

---

#### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE well considered the subject of the letter, and am afraid the *Bile* is some how obstructed in its passage to the intestines, whence being collected and becoming acrid it produces these acute pains,

THIS

THIS matter must then be resolved, and the vessels opened that so it may be gently protruded; this is what we must principally aim at towards a cure, with proper regard to the *Nervous* system which is much weakened.

IF the patient would take every three hours of the day, at each time three of the pills *A*, drinking immediately after them two ounces of the Apozem *B*, and continue this course for four weeks, I am confident it would do her great service, particularly, if she joined to this proper exercise of body. With regard to her children, gentle corroborating remedies will be proper to strengthen the *Viscera*, and destroy the hot acrimony of the juices: I approve of what has been already tried to this purpose, which ought to be continued. Such a medicine is that described at the letter *C*, of which half an ounce may be given them thrice a day, when their stomach is most empty, that is about an hour before breakfast, dinner and supper.

A.

R. Gum. Ammoniac. drach. ij.

Borac. gr. x.

Sapon. Venet. drach. ij.

Terebintb. gr. v.

M. F. Pil. sing. gr. iij.

A.

*R. 5 Rad. aperient. ana unc. ij.*

*Sal. Polychrest. drach. jss.*

*Tartar. Vitriolat. drac. j.*

*Cum aq. decoctis spatio sem. horae adde*

*Raf. Lign. Santal. Citrin drach. iij.*

*Semin. 4 calid. min. ana drach. j.*

*Then shut the vessel and keep them in a hot infusion without boiling for the space of an hour, There must be of the Decoction about four pints,*

*R. Cortic. Casparid. unc. j.*

*Cinnamon. unc. ss.*

*Tamarisc. drach. v.*

*Rhei drach. ss.*

*Semin. Huij drach. jv.*

*M. f. pulvis tenuis qui cum*

*Aq. fillat. Melissae.*

*Hydromellit. ana unc. vj.*

*infundatur.*

## LETTER XX.

THIS gentleman is about thirty two years of age, he was eighteen years ago, in that cold winter betwixt the years 1715 and 1716, seized with the falling down of the *Uvula*, yet at first he neglected it; but afterwards from the great



great uneasiness it gave him hindring his sleep, and otherwise, he was moved to use gargarisms, vomits, purges, &c. but with little advantage.

In the year 1721, the same complaint was still remaining, and there being also some appearance of an ulceration of the throat, and the neighbouring parts, he was persuaded to undergo a course of *Mercury*; which was administered to him both outwardly and inwardly to a pretty large quantity, but without any other effect, than violent purging the first five weeks; except when it was restrained by the use of astringent medicines; at last by altering the method of taking his mercury, by the advice of his physicians, he was brought to salivate three or four weeks, which carried off any appearance of ulceration; but the *Uvula* still kept down: however by the using of astringent gargarisms, blisters, perpetual issue, and after recovering from the measles (which with a fever that accompanied them had kept him three or four weeks) it was at last brought to a natural state. In the beginning of the year 1722, he found his throat pretty easy; but had contracted in that space such a habit of watching, from a bad practice he had accustomed himself to of reading or writing the greatest part of the night,

and still afterwards, and is obliged to that

that his sleep ever since has been little and broken sometimes for several nights.

In *March* 1726, he began to have a gross spitting, which came away easily, and without any cough; but by the continuance of it his colour began to fade, and his flesh to waste: about that time he gave up at once a long habit he had brought himself to, of snuffing tobacco, and abstained from it all the Year. In the beginning of *August* he went into the Country, and lived according to the Rules prescribed him by his Physicians, save that he could not use exercise on horseback for the pain of the piles, that troubled him frequently for the six preceding years, but were at that time much more uneasy. The spitting still increased, and was now accompanied with some boundness in his breast, some cough and difficulty of expectorating and sweating in the morning. About the middle of *September* he was advised to go to the North of *Scotland*, his native air, and as he was entering upon his Journey, he was attacked with a violent pain in the anus, with some pains in his belly, which lasted five or six days, during which space he had no passage by stool, and very little by urine, but a constant desire to both. He returned to *Edinburgh* about the end of *October*, with some more freshness in his looks, but all his former complaints

hanging about him, among these the pain of his anus in going to stool was none of the least, and it being found there was a fistula there, he had it cut about the middle of *November*: the bottom of it lay deep, and discharged a large quantity of sanious matter, such as had been coming from it for about two months before. During this space the cough, spitting, and sweating, still increased, with some flying pains over his body.

ABOUT the end of *December*, toward midnight, after he had been a short time in bed, without any previous uneasiness more than usual, he was waked from his sleep by a strong reaching to vomit, and did vomit up such large quantities of blood, part coagulated, part fluid and florid, as probably would have choaked him, had not those who were in the next room heard and come to his Assistance.

HE was blooded plentifully that night, the next and following days: the blood-spitting went off gradually, first with a mixture of yellowish matter, and after the yellowish matter came off for some days by itself, and in the same manner it has generally gone off since. In 1727, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, he had returns of blood-spitting ofteneft in the summer, and the cough worse in the winter; the complaint of the cough, gross spitting, sweating, want of sleep, and a  
great



great discharge from the fistula, still remaining.

IN 1733, he had several returns of blood-spitting, more violent than any before, except the first: he had sweatings and loosenesses all the winter, from the beginning of *November*, till the spring thirty-four was well advanced.

THE cough still more violent, especially in the morning; at which time the fits continued long, and did defeat him much, and the fistula discharged, as he reckoned, to the quantity of a gill in twenty-four hours: about the middle of *May* last, he had a pretty violent return of blood-spitting, which continued with very little intermission, till the middle of *July*. And now while I write this, the tenth of *August*, he has another return of it, but hitherto not so violent as the former. It is generally preceeded by a sense of boundness and pressure in his breast, and comes up often, without much coughing, of a pretty bright and florid colour.

THE cough is troublesome at all times, but chiefly in the night and in the morning, when he has always a most violent paroxysm of it, which lasts commonly an hour, and defeats him much. He expectorates with difficulty, has a thick, white, smooth spittle, sweats for the most part in the night or morning; by these, and the great discharge

charge of thin water from the fistula, his strength is much impaired, his flesh wasted, and his colour decayed and sickly; by the continual flow of that gross spitting, his throat and tongue are much fouled, his thirst is not great, and his appetite tolerably good, his pulse is quicker than naturally it should be, otherwise regular, soft, and equal; his urine is generally of a citrion colour, and has a light suspension or ground, but sometimes, especially when he has the blood-spitting, after standing a short time, it turns thick and muddy, and does not separate; his spittle does not sink in water, and he lies on every side without being sensible of much difference as to his cough or breathing: he still walks abroad, and sometimes rides; he is fatigued with either, but no fatigue, or any of the opiates he has used, have been able to procure him sleep; he rather sleeps worse the night he uses them; his breathing is generally pretty easy, but he complains sometimes of pain in his breast, upon a very full inspiration. The remedies that have been used, as I can learn from his apothecary's bills, and otherwise, are blood-letting upon the returns of blood-spitting, gentle vomits and purgatives, pectoral and balsamick pills of gum ammon, bals. of tolu. *Barbadoes* tar. & sperm. cæti, pilul. mathæi, e styrace liquidi laudani, syr. diacod. a decoction of peruvian

vian bark, with other stomachicks and pectorals; Dr. *Eaton's* styptick, fyrrup of nettles, ground ivy and linseed teas, womens milk, mares milke, and goats whey; a diet of cows milk, exercise on horseback, country and highland air; what he is now using is (after blood-letting when the returns of blood-spitting are violent) the following decoction till it is over, *viz.*

R. Rad. alib. ʒiss. Sympbit. ʒ. fruct Tamarind. ʒiiij. coq. in aq. fontan. lb. vi. ad lb. iv. sub finem coctionis adde Flor. tussilaginis. ʒss. rad glycyrrhiz. ʒi. coq. parum & immoto operculo refrigerat. colaturæ adde Nitr. scrup. ij. capiat ʒiv: omni bithorio.

He used the tabells of pulv. *diarrag.* S. R. *Edinburgh*; and when he has no spittings of blood, he uses every day lb. i. of the following decoction.

R. Rad. alib. Glycyrrhiz ana drach. ij. coq. leni calore in aq. fontan. lb. i ss ad lb. i. adde sub finem Fol. *beder. terrestr.* Flor. tussilaginis. ana ʒi. colatura detur usui.

WHEN his stomach is out of order, he takes a little rhubarb in substance or infusion; his diet has been generally for breakfast bohea tea; coffee, and sometimes, but seldom, chocolate; with a bit of bread, with marmalade of oranges, or jelly of currants; for dinner, a chicken; pease; artichokes,

or



or young beans, with a single glass of cherry or tent; for supper, a veal foot with vinegar, or the broth of a fowl, veals feet and shavings of harts-horn, or a poached egg, or the yolk of an egg, or two in a glass of tent.

He is now still desired to bring his diet near a milk diet; to abstain from all kinds of wine, or strong liquors, and to ride as frequently as he can.

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#### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

THE disease seems to proceed from a long, constant, severe cough, which shakes and breaks the small tender vessels of the lungs. The frequent returns of this occasions the easy breaking of the new formed *escbar*, and by this means the disorder is become almost natural. It is much to be feared, that the vital strength may give way under this oppression, whence all Pains must be used to correct the disorder, and prevent its return.

THE Patient must let blood four times a year, in the months of *April, July, October, and January*, three days before full moon, about nine ounces each time: let his ordinary drink be one fourth milk, and three fourths of water, sweetned with

with a little honey. Let his diet consist mostly of vegetable and farinuous roots, dressed any how; ripe summer fruits, bread, milk, cream, &c.

He ought to indulge in sleeping, and lie in one of the high floors, in a good dry room. Let him take every three hours of the day, three of the pills *A*, drinking immediately after them three ounces of the decoction *B*, warm, and every night at going to bed he must take the draught *C*.

THIS Course must be continued for a whole year; if the spitting of blood can be so long prevented, it will give great hopes of his recovery, which I heartily wish God may grant.

*H. B.*

*A.*  
*R. Balsam. Peruv. drach. ss.*

*Catechu puriss. drach. j. ss.*

*Gummi Arab. drach. j.*

*Mastic. drach. j. ss.*

*Qlibani*

*Sarcocollae ana drach. ss.*

*Manna Calabrin. unc. ss.*

Mix all these together into a mass fit for forming of pills of three grains each.

*H*

*B.*

## B.

R. Flor. rec. Alb.

Symphis. ana unc. ss.

Fol. rec. Alb.

Verbasci ana m. j.

Rad. rec. symphis. drach. iij.

Liquirit. unc. ij.

Sem. rec. Papav. alb. unc. ss.

Plantag. drach. vi.

*These must be boiled in fresh water for the space of an hour, so that there may be about four pints remaining.*

## C.

R. Aq. Stillat. Flor. Rboad. unc. j.

Syrup. Alb. drach. ij.

Diaced. drach. j.

M. F. Haustulus.

## LETTER XXI.

DOCTOR Boerhaave having taken no notice of the *fistula* in this letter, the physicians who were concerned thought proper to consult him a second time, and begged particularly that he might take this circumstance into consideration.

BOERHAAVE'S



## BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE again carefully considered the melancholy history of this grievous disorder, which I find to be very complicate. The remedies hitherto used and the method of cure that has been pursued, are every way so proper, that it is hardly possible to prescribe a better, or add any thing to what I formerly recommended. The patients body is by this time so accustomed to the blood spitting and so weakned by it, that it easily gives way on every new increafe of the blood. In the mean time the evacuation that is made from the *Fistula* seems to relieve the *Lungs*, so that there is great danger of the breasts being oppressed in case it (*the Fistula*) was cured.

THESE circumstances make it very difficult to prescribe remedies which should be proper for those several symptoms : for the cough, blood-spitting, fistula, hip-pain, tumours, all require different things. With regard to the cough, I think it best that the patient take every two hours of the day an half ounce of the balsam *A*, drinking after it one ounce of the decoction *B*. This will be of great use to soften the roughness that is in the wind pipe and lungs, where the scar of the bursten

arteries irritates and excites the cough, which is increased by the swelling of the part from the new blood; this will likewise be mitigated by the same remedy: it will also promote the spitting by gently dissolving the thick and viscid matter, and dispose the body for sleep, which could not be obtained from *Opium*. As to the *Tumour* those applications must be used which are proper to ripen it, that the matter here formed may be drawn off from the *Inwards* which having once found this rout may purge themselves thereby, whence we may expect considerable relief.

THE breakfasts which were prescribed seem every way proper, and I should think one ounce of canary taken a day would do no harm. For eating I would recommend fresh flesh, as veal, rabbits, chickens, lamb and shell fish; all taken in moderation, and in proportion to his strength. The other directions I leave to the skill of the physicians who attend him, who have treated this dangerous disease with prudence and success: The distance I am at, and the time betwixt writing and receiving the answer, may often render my advice improper.

H. B.

A.

A.

R. *Balsam. Perv. gutt. v.*  
*Ol. Amygdal. dulc. rec. unc. ss.*  
*Syrup. Diacod. drach. v.*  
*Vitelli ovi rec. drach. ss.*

B.

R. *Rec. Flor. Albæ*  
*Rbosados*  
*Verbasci*  
*Hyperici ana unc. ss.*  
*Fol. Alb.*  
*Scabius. ana m. ij.*  
*Sem. contus. Papav. alb.*  
*Plantag. ana unc. j.*

*Boil all these in a sufficient quantity of water for an hour so  
as there may remain three pints of the decoction.*

••• LETTER XXII.

SIR,

I BEG leave to lay before you the state of my health and constitution in the best manner, and with as many particular circumstances and symptoms as I am able to recollect, which are as follows.

I AM now in the thirty eighth year of my age; in my infancy I was afflicted with frequent and violent fevers, till I was about three years old,



at last the fever going off, a small eruption covered with a thin white scurf appeared on the bend of my knees, which continued as long as I was free from a fever; upon the return of the fever that disappeared, but shewed itself upon my recovery from the fever; as I grew in years I became less subject to the fever, and being healthy and well, the eruption was disregarded by my parents; this disorder of the skin increased by slow degrees, shewing itself likewise on my elbows, and farther in my legs and arms, without being at all regarded, untill I arrived towards manhood; and when at school, I was frequently troubled with little eruptions, in several parts of my body, like what we call Cat-boyls, which came to a little white head, the matter squeezed out they soon grew well, without leaving any scurf or sign behind; in order to keep down these heats, (as they were called) I did annually at the proper seasons of the year, take mercurial purges, for about the space of ten years, but without any great effect: for the complaint still continued, and the scurfy eruption crept almost imperceivably farther over my legs and arms, and then shewed itself on my thighs, and at length attacked my face and head, and the tops of my fingers and toes. The disorder which had been before was wholly out of sight,

sight, but now appearing under the nails of my fingers and in my face, occasioned me to seek for relief more diligent then I had done before; for being naturally of a chearful temper, and finding no pain or sickness, I had in great measure neglected it till I was about thirty years old; since which time I have taken many and different medicines, and the methods that have been prescribed have proved ineffectual; and my disorder has so far increased under the use of them, that I find some eruptions on my back, and other parts of my body, and my legs almost wholly covered with scaly scurf.

THE symptoms that formerly appeared, I can give no other account of than the appearance on the surface of the skin; upon rubbing, those white scabs would fall off, and the part be inclinable to itch: and if any time by rubbing, the under skin was broke so as to bleed, it soon healed over and grew well again, and the same part would soon form a new scurf. For about twelve years past, I have observed my urine to be thick at the bottom, of a red and sometimes of a lighter coloured sediment, with a greasy film on the surface of it, and at other times of a clear good colour, but then I observe I am subject to a feverish inclination in my blood; till within two years I have observed my thighs have been in

winter, and indeed almost always (except in very warm weather) very cold, so as to render me uneasy, but this I hope is now totally removed.

THE scurfy scales have never occasioned any foreness of the parts affected, nor any other uneasiness, than a little itching. I generally sleep well, though I have (but very seldom) been troubled with the night mare, and troublesome dreams, and have sometimes a listless inactivity for several days together. I must not forget to say that my hair both on my head and breast, has been gray for some years: with this constitution, soon after I came of age, I applied myself to the study of the law, but have never lived altogether an inactive life, though I never used great exercise; as I have a constant good appetite, I have eat freely, and formerly at supper as well as dinner, and without refraining from any thing that was set before me. I have for a long time left off the use of our malt liquor, and hogs flesh, and by advice for four or five years past all salt and seasoned meats, and all sorts of pickles, and eating meats at supper; I have observed that those antiscorbuticks, often prescribed, such as scurvy grass, horse radish roots, water cresses, and the tribe of hot stimulating herbs and volatile salts (all which have been prescribed to me) have not only, not done me any service, but



but excited the blood to throw out more scurf than appeared before the use of them.

THESE complaints I have the misfortune to labour under. How to account for their beginning otherwise, than from those fevers which I have been afflicted with in my childhood, I am at a loss. My father had a very clear skin (only as he told me) when he was about thirty years of age, about the time that I was born, had a deep red settled in his face, which continued during his whole life, nor was it ever regarded by him. I have many brothers and sisters, I dont know that any of them has any disorder that affects the skin or scorbutick as it is called, other than a little roughness of skin; nor does it come from my mother: You will please to consider my case, and order such a course as you think proper. I would only beg leave to observe to you that I fear my affairs will not admit of a confinement for any long time this summer. I hope from your skill to receive relief from this disorder, which has occasioned in me great uneasiness of mind.

---

#### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE considered the disorder, and after reflection advise the tryal of the following course, for six weeks.

1<sup>st</sup>,

1<sup>st</sup>, You must every morning and evening cause your skin to be well rubbed with rough, dry, warm flannel, in all the places where the scurf is: the flannel must first be kept over the smoak of burning brimstone and impregnated with it.

2<sup>dly</sup>, You are to avoid all fat meats, or what is dried in the air, smoak, or salt, eat vegetables, farinuous roots, kitchen herbs, ripe summer fruit, fresh fleshes and river fish. For drink I recommend small beer, and a moderate glass of white *French* wine.

AN hour before breakfast, dinner and supper, you are to take five of the pills *A*, at one time, always drinking after them five ounces of the medicated liquor *B*.

H. B.

A.

R. *Flor. Sulphur.* drach. iij.

*Myrrb.* drach. jss.

*Rhei* drach. j.

*Terebinthin.* drach. j.

M. f. pil. sing. gr. iij.

B.

R. *Recentiss. Acetos. Pratens. cum toto* M. j.

*Gramin. cum toto* M. ij.

*Toraxac. cum toto* M. jss.

*Rad. Oxylapatbi* drach. ss.

Boil all these in a sufficient quantity of fresh whey for the space of half an hour. Then let there be strained off xv ounces for daily use.

LETTER

## ••• LETTER XXIII.

SIR,

I AM twenty seven years old, and for about four years last past, any violent action brings on me a difficulty of breathing, which is attended with a cough and spitting, which seldom holds me above half an hour or not so long, if I can spit freely; if I drink any strong spirituous liquor late in the evening, I am awakened frequently in the night with a shortness of breathing, but mostly after malt liquors, and likewise tobacco, any slight cold always aggravates it, and likewise cold weather; when action brings it on me, it is often attended with pain in my head, it has been easier this winter, than it was foregoing ones, and I have been less subject to take cold, which advantage I fancy to have received by taking twelve or fifteen drops of *oil of sulphur per Campan* in a glass of cold water at night. In my youth I had convulsion fits, and am more subject to this shortness of breath in the winter, than in the summer. I have my health otherwise very well, and a good appetite.

BOERHAAVE'S



## BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

THE dose of the Oil of Sulphur per Campan. was I think sufficiently large (a)

THE disorder is a *Convulsive Asthma*; I hope for relief to the patient from the careful observance of what follows, which must be continued for six weeks successive.

R. Gummi. Ammon, drach. ij.

Balsam. Peruv. drach. j.

Croci drach. ss.

Trochisc. de Myrrh. drach. iij.

M. F. Pilula gr. iv.

Let him take three of these pills thrice a day, when his stomach is empty; and drink at each time after them two ounces of the following liquor.

R. Aq. Stillat. Foenic. lib. j.

Oxymell. Scillitic. unc. ij.

Syrup. 5 Rad. aperient. unc. ij.

M.

(a) THE doctor here condemns it in a modest manner, as being by much too large. He has left us several cautions against this manner of using it, and in too great quantities; describing the *Asthma* as one of the bad consequences. Though it was a favourite medicine, he used only to add some drops to *Decoctions* and *Infusions* to bring them to an agreeable acidity. The best manner of preparing this *Spirit of Sulphur* is described in Vol. V. of the medical essays, page 183.

LETTER

## \* \* LETTER XXIV.

**A** LADY thirty six years of age, had the measles when she was about fifteen years old, and was afterwards seized with an hec tick fever, which being almost cured, was succeeded by dry cough, and pain in the breast, though now and then throwing up a little pus: this continued till this time, in the interim the lady was married, upon which the cough grew worse, and as yet having found no relief, begs the favour of your assistance.

## BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

**F**ROM what I can collect by the short description of the ladies disorder and the answers the gentleman gave me, I am apt to think;

1<sup>st</sup>, THAT the disease was originally contracted from the sudden cooling of the body which was over-heated; this created a stiffness attended with pain in the ligaments, membranes, and tendons of the muscles: the muscular fibres of the lungs likewise have suffered too great a contraction, whence they are more difficultly expanded, particularly in a sharp air.

2dly, THIS produced then a species of *Rheumatism* in the muscles, and a dry *Asthma* with a cough, in the lungs.

3dly, THERE is (I think) a general weakness over all the body.

4thly, IT is to be feared that the disease may increase with age, particularly at the time the *Menses* stop, whence all endeavours must now be used towards a cure.

5thly, LET therefore a blister of *Cantbarides* be applied betwixt the patients shoulders once a month, three days before full moon; let it remain for twelve hours, then it may be removed, and the part healed. This must be continued for three months successive.

6thly, IN the mean time the part where she feels the pain, must constantly every morning and evening be well rubbed, with rough, dry, warm cloths.

7thly, HER ladyship must use a good deal of exercise, walking and riding in a coach: the more of this she takes, the better.

8thly, FOR two months successive she must every morning take thrice, five of the pills *A*, and that at seven, eight and nine a clock, drinking after each dose five ounces warm of the decoction *B*.

H. B.

A.



## A.

R. Gumm. Ammoniac. drach. j.

Bulb. Ari. recent. drach. ij.

Castorei gr. vj.

Galbani drach. jss.

Opopanax. drach. ij.

Terebintb. drach. ss.

M. f. pilul. gr. iij.

## B.

R. Rad. rec. Bardan.

5 Radic. aperient. ana unc. ij.

Sal Prunell. drach. ij.

Mellis Narbon. unc. iij.

Boil these in water for the space of half an hour, and to the  
14 pints of the decoction add three ounces of Narbon Honey.

\*.\*

## LETTER XXV.

**A**LADY of a fine and delicate texture of  
body, was prodigiously afrighted by a ter-  
rible shock of thunder and lightning, which she  
looking upon as a judgment, did not recover her  
fright for some weeks, but was always dull and  
melancholy, and fell into hysteric fits; which  
by degrees grew more violent, and commonly three  
times a month seized her in a terrible manner,  
neither in the intervals was she quite free, but  
always troubled with slighter hystericks.

## BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE carefully considered the description of the disorder, and am of opinion that it is an *Epilepsy* of the *Sympathetic* kind, which proceeds from the great *Plexus Nervosus Epigastricus*: for the order and action of these nerves being confounded, the brain appears to be affected, and the common *Sensorium* intirely oppressed for several hours.

THIS kind of disorder is very difficult of cure, because it often without any preceeding matter suddenly attacks and affects the actions of the brain, as it were by stealth; and confounds them, as some high passions terrify those affected by them, who often do not know whither they are hurried away.

In hopes of a cure, I advise.

1<sup>st</sup>, That the *Epispastic* plaisters *A*, be applied to the soles of the feet, and kept on constantly night and day, the time of bathing only excepted.

2<sup>dly</sup>, Four days before new and as many before Full-moon in the evening, an hour before she goes to bed, her feet, must be bathed in warm water and afterwards well rubbed with rough, dry, warm cloths;

cloths; this then is to be done eight times every month.

3dly, THE first of these four days at six a clock in the morning she must take the powder B, when her stomach is empty, and that day take no acids; the same day at five a clock in the afternoon let her drink off at once the draught C. This article then the lady will observe twice a month.

4thly, THE other days, thrice a day when the stomach is empty, that is an hour before breakfast, dinner and supper; she may take three of the pills D, and drink after them one ounce of the medicated wine E.

5thly, HER ladyship must take all kinds of exercise such as friction, walking, riding; and the more the better. She must go to bed betimes, and rise early.

6thly, WITH regard to eating and drinking, her taste and former way of life must be consulted; and rather allowances are to be made this way than a strict regimen enjoined, providing only she does not eat those things that are hard of digestion.

Leyden, 1732. H. B.



## A.

*R. Camphor*, drach. ss. solut. in  
*Terebinth*, drach. j.  
*Emplast. de Melib.* unc. ij.  
*Galban. opt. par.* unc. jss.

*M. S. A. pro Emplastria ad Alut*

## B.

*R. Cinnabar nativ.* gr. iij.  
*Sacchar. perlat.* gr. vj.  
*Scammon.* gr. vij.  
*Stib. diaphoret.* gr. xvj.

*M. f. Pulvis tenuissimus.*

## C.

*R. Aq. stillat. Flor. Tilia*  
*Lotundul.*  
*Majoran. ana* unc. j.  
*Spirit. Matricalis* drach. j.  
*Tinct. Opij.* gutt. xiv.  
*Succini* gut. x.

## D.

*R. Asa fetida* drach. ij.  
*Bals. Peruvian.* drach. ss.  
*Camphora* drach. ij.  
*Myrrhas.* drach. ij.  
*Terebinthin.* drach. ss.  
*M. f. pilul.* gr. iij.

R.

*R. Cortic. Magellan.**Sassafras**Tamarisc.**Capparid.**Cinnamon.**Citrei ana unc. ss.**Lign. Agalloch. drach. ij.**Santal. citrin. drach. iv.**Lapid. Hematit. drach. j.**Limatur. Mars. drach. vj.**Rad. Angelic.**Caryophyllat.**Cantharid.**Serpentar. virgih. ana drach. j.**Semin. Angelic. Sily. Danc. critic. Funicul.**ana drach. jss.*

Mix all these together, and make them into a gross powder,  
 whence with iv pints of rhenish wine let there be S. A.  
 prepared a medicinal wine.

## ••• LETTER XXVI.

SIR,

THE gentleman who desires your advice is  
 near fifty years old, tall in stature, natu-  
 rally rather thin and spare than otherwise. He  
 lived in the *West-Indies* many years, but for ten  
 years last past has constantly resided in *England*,  
 except for a few months, which I shall mention  
 hereafter.

HE has always lived very temperate, and in the proper use of the non-naturals. He enjoyed a good state of health before the illness he now labours under, but was subject to a catarrous cough upon getting cold, and for many years has oftentimes in a day with ease hemed up from his throat and spit out *Pblegm*, which (by the way) has left him since his illness.

THIS gentleman about a year and a half ago went over to the *West-Indies*, and continued there a few months in his usual state of health; and returning to *England* took a violent cold in his passage, which not being well treated, I suppose altered the crasis of his blood to a viscid state.

UPON his landing he rode post for three days which much strained him, and dissipated his spirits, but seemed after a day or two's rest not at all affected by his late illness, or the fatigue of his journey.

ABOUT a month afterwards which was in *August* last, an hiccup by degrees came upon him, without any immediate sensible cause; which with other troublesome symptoms has continued ever since.

BUT to be more particular; upon his swallowing though but a small quantity either of liquid or solid food, he feels such a straitness at the mouth of his stomach, that gives him pain and prevents



prevents deglutition, which is followed with hiccups, that pump up from his stomach by mouth fulls a thick viscid *Pblegm*; and when that is discharged, he is easy and seems very well except the fit continues long, which then leaves a foreboding at his breast, attended with a sinking of his spirits and imbecillity.

THIS complaint does not always affect him when he eats, for sometimes he can swallow so well with caution, as to make a tolerable good meal. He is never sick at his stomach, nor inclined to vomit; regular in all the natural evacuations, except sweat; having not sensibly perspired since this illness. His pulse is generally languid; much wasted in his body, and feels a great decay of strength; yet is no way hypochondriac or dejected; uses daily exercise as riding and walking, and is as easy and chearful in company as he used to be when in health; except interrupted by a fit, which seldom or never comes upon him but upon attempts to eat or drink.

UPON the first attacks of his distemper he was vomited, which was repeated several times once in a week or ten days; between whiles he took gummous pills and other stomachicks, with tinctura *Helvetii*, sometimes with red *Rbabarb*; *Quinquina* and *Elixir Vitriol*, with a regular regimen observed. But this method not succeeding after

after many weeks trial, he went to *Bath*, where he drank the water for three months, under the direction and care of the most noted physicians there, who prescribed for him alternately, *Safron. Venet. Cinnab. Mercur. Alcalifat; Spec. Diamb;* with other stomachicks, but to no effect. Since his return from *Bath* for three weeks last by a physicians order of the first rank, he has continued taking of the following medicines.

R. *Tinctur. Sacr. ℥j. Sp. Lavandula ℥ss. m. f. haustus sumend. omni nocte hora somni*

R. *Conserv. Absynth. Roman. ℥j. Pulv. Ari, gr. xij. Limat. Chalyb. opt. gr. viij. Spec. Diamb. gr. iv. Syr. Cort. aurant. q. s. f. bolus sumend. mane & quintâ pomeridiana, superbibendo Aq. spadanæ haustum, quam bibat etiam pro potu ordinario.*

He finds little or no benefit by the medicines he now takes, therefore being encouraged by many instances of your superior skill and judgment, is determined to submit wholly thereto. If you will be so good as to favour him with your advice and directions: or if you think it necessary for him to go to the *Spaw*, or any where else, he will comply therewith, upon your giving him any reasonable hopes of success.

13 July, 1736,

•• BOERHAAVE'S

## BOERHAVVE'S ANSWER.

HAVING examined with attention the proposed case, I am of opinion that that there is a very great relaxation in all the small glands of the stomach and the guts; whereby so vast a quantity is gathered up so soon to *Pblegm* and lost.

THE method and remedies given hitherto against the illness are the best to cure it; so that it is scarce possible to find out any others more able to these purposes.

I SHALL only recommend the following remedies.—Let be kept † of the pills *A*, five at a time, every morning at 6. 6½. 7. 7½. 8. 8½, so that thirty pills shall be taken every day morning at an empty stomach, and at every time immediately after the five pills must be drunken ʒij of juice *B*, to these purpose freshly pressed every day. All these must be continued to six weeks successively during the summer time.

Eyden 1736. H. B.

form was a violent pain in the head; this was re-  
 + taken



A.

R. *Albi Macpash* drach. *BAHAB*

*Bilis recent. Lucii piscis* gr. xv.

*Cort. gr. xij.* *HAVING*

*Myrrh. drach. j.*

*Sapon. Venet. drach. iv.*

*Terebinth. gr. ix.*

*M. f. a. f. pil. ling. gr. ij.*

B.

R. *Herb. recentiss. Annid. m. j.*

*Boragin. m. ij.*

*Cochlear. m. j.*

*Diapen.*

*Eryng.*

*Fenic. m. j.*

*Gramin. m. iv.*

*Let all these be cut and well washed. Then lay them in rain water for some time, and after squeeze them in a press, so as to extract xij ounces of the fresh juices.*

Needling after the pills must be continued every day.  
 • • • LETTER XXVII.

THE patient is about thirty six years of age, of a sanguine constitution, born twelve children, and generally and naturally healthy. About eight years ago suffered a very sharp quotidian ague for about four months, whose chief symptom was a violent pain in the head: this was removed

moved by the bark with aromatics, but left behind it rheumatick pains and scorbutic eruptions; the latter of which remain at present yet manifest, though by the use of antiscorbutick juices formerly prescribed by Dr. B.—— and repeated spring and fall they were in a great measure abated. The ague hath had some irregular returns upon accidents of cold or large discharges; particularly about three years ago after lying in, but always was conquered by the *Bark*, mixed with *Iberiac*, *Snakeroot*, *Salt of Amber*.

UPON the second of *July* 1735, after a very hard labour and with the birth across, she was delivered of a male child, and believes that every circumstance relating thereto was safe and well. The after pains came naturally as usual; these continued about three or four days, but upon their ceasing she was seized with the ague attended with the former symptoms. It was not thought advisable immediately to administer the *Bark*.

UPON the eighth of *August* she was seized with a sharp pleuritic pain upon the right side, just under the breast, with the usual Symptoms of an hard pulse and pain in breathing: these yielded in a short time to plentiful bleeding, blistering and pectoral medicines.

DURING the eight or ten days that the pleuritic pains raged, the ague disappeared, but then returned

returned again with the same force as before, and upon inspiration a sense of pain remained upon the part for a long time after; and even to this day upon any oppression or feverishness (as she expresses it) it is felt with pain, and describes it, as if something was drawing from, or appendant to the part, which gives strong suspicion of some adhesion.

UPON the twentieth of *August*, after purging and vomiting, she began the use of the following medicines. *Kince Nince Tberiac* equal parts, *Snake-root* half, salt of *Amber* an eighth, made into an electuary; with syrup of Cloves, to the quantity of a nutmeg every four hours, washing it down with an infusion of *Kince nince, cort. aurant. gentian. snake root, lesser Cardamoms, Camemile Flowers and Saffron*. Upon these applications the ague yielded towards the end of *September*, but she apprehended herself much bloated especially her upper parts, which was then thought a consequence of the ague decreasing, but upon the twenty ninth of *September*, when she first put on a pair of stays, she was sensibly swelled to that degree, that any person would have supposed her six or seven months gone with child.

THE monthly discharges were hitherto regular, and the swelling too great to give any suspicion of a conception; but about the middle of *October*, which



which was the regular time of their return, they disappeared for about ten days beyond the stated time; she was then seized with sickness at her stomach and dizziness in her head, with heaving after the manner of breeding women; which symptoms appeared daily, till the ninth of *January*; however the *Menses* returning and the patient continuing much swelled, it was thought advisable to attempt by proper evacuations to lessen the swelling. For this purpose between the twenty fourth of *October*, and the first of *January*, she took eleven dozes of *Calomel* in bolus's over night, which were purged off next day with the purging infusion and cornachim, taking upon the intermediate days  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mass made of *Gum Ammoniac*, *Galban*, *Sal Tartar* in soap—upon this purging and aperient course the swelling subsided and abated, but upon the nineteenth of *December*, there was felt just under the navel an hard lump, then deep in appearance, but afterwards gradually tending more superficially and increasing in bulk.

THIS appearance notwithstanding the monthly discharges continued their regular returns, occasioned in her physicians a suspicion of a conception. The discharges indeed were preceeded for two days every time since *October*, (and continue so still) with a plentiful flow of brownish water; but the true red discharge which always followed, would

would sometimes stop a day and then return; but still kept regular as to the exactness of the monthly periods.

UPON the ninth of *January* the sickness and heaving ceased, and there was imagined a perception of a motion just like that of a feather in the middle of the lump, which was felt more than twice: the lump continued increasing till the twelfth of *April*, when a water broke after the manner of child bearing women, and was coming away in small quantities for two days together.

UPON the ceasing of that flow of water, she fell into strong labouring pains, but instead of bearing down they concentrated towards the lump, and were described as if the lump was squeezed and grinded. These pains continued at first for twelve hours, and returned every day for a fortnight with very little intermission, and without any sensible decrease of the bulk. The labour pains happened about a fortnight after the regular monthly discharges, and continued till the time of the next return; just before which they increased with violence, and seemed to bear down, this brought away a large quantity of water, upon which the violence of the pain abated. The pains however continued irregular, or without any farther benefit of discharge, till about the fourth of *June*, which was the regular return of the Men-

for and were preceded as usual, with a brown  
 discharge before mentioned. Upon the twenty  
 sixth there came away a lump of the bigness of an  
 hens egg without pain, but attended with a shed  
 which lasted about five minutes. This lump up-  
 on maceration in water, appeared to be a mem-  
 braneous substance inclosing of grumous blood, and  
 visibly to be torn off from somewhat it must have  
 adhered to in the womb: this was succeeded by  
 a plentiful evacuation of white milky liquor, which  
 continued for eight hours, and was attended  
 with throbbing pains in the breasts like the com-  
 ing of the milk. I must observe that the fever-  
 riness, heat and uneasiness that attends the com-  
 ing of the milk, in child bearing women returned  
 in this patient two or three times between two  
 periodical discharges: the rising thereof into the  
 breast is attended with pains in the loins, back  
 and blade bones. When the breasts are full the  
 load in the belly seems lighter, though not less-  
 ened in bulk: when the milk is emptied from the  
 breasts, it seems to fall down in the womb, and  
 constantly precedes a discharge thence either of  
 milk or water, or of some other liquor of the same  
 substance or consistence though differently colour-  
 ed. Pain like labour as before described, about  
 the twenty first of July, which was the next pe-  
 riodical return, three lumps came away in the  
 same



same manner, and attended with the same circumstances as these just now described, only these last were filled with milk.

THE next return *August* the eighteenth produced nothing particular, only it was thought that the previous discharge of the brownish liquor was in a greater quantity than usual. The eleventh of *September* this last discharge returned plentifully, and continued to the fourteenth when it changed to the natural. However she suffered strong labour pains daily from the twelfth to the sixteenth, the fourteenth was the only day of the natural colour; in the discharge of the fifteenth it was all milk, and very plentiful; the sixteenth when it was thought all was over, there came away without, pain, but with a sharp instant shed, a lump compos'd of three parts, two small white lumps of the bigness of a hazel nut, and in shape like a kidney affixed to each side of a grumous lump somewhat larger. It is observable that all that day upon every discharge of urine there came away large quantities of white, red and black skins or membranes. Besides these discharges, the patient hath, for about six months past, at the distance of five or six weeks been constantly attended with a *Diarrhea*, to thirteen or fourteen times a-day for two or three days, when it disappears as it came on, without any visible cause or use of

of medicaments at all. At all other times costive, which is her natural temperament, so as to be under a necessity of rendring the bowels soluble, by *Manna*, *Cremor Tartar*, and such like. The swelling notwithstanding all the discharges is not any ways lessened, but the lump which at first was hard is now much softer, and is perceived to be much more diffused, and more superficial than it was. Her appetite during the whole hath been indifferent, however what food was taken seemed to be well enough digested. She has drunk cyder for her ordinary drink these three months past, and hath drunk a flask of *German Spaw* water every day from the end of *October* to this time. I shall only further observe, that the scorbutick Eruptions which use to yield to the juices spring and fall, have notwithstanding the same use of them as formerly appeared with equal force, since the commencement of this disorder.

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BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

**A**FTER carefully considering the description sent me, I am of opinion that there is a twofold disease; the first is the *Tumour* proceeding from an obstruction of the *Abdominal Viscera*, which has so long appeared; and all the other

other symptoms show that there is that disorder in the *Uterus*, which produces membranous *Floes*, which adhere to the surface of the womb, are filled with its juices, fall away at different times, and are often cast off with violent efforts. This disease is what the sex is frequently subject to, and what makes it worse is, that the *Uterus* when once disposed to form these vehicles commonly creates new ones, and converts all the juices into their nourishment and increase. It must then be a very difficult case, as it is scarcely possible by art to amend what is here amiss in the structure of the part. I shall never forget the many labours I have gone through, and the pains I have been at to remove those complaints, though often to little purpose: and in the mean time if art does not give some relief, the consequences are much to be feared. We must then use our utmost endeavours to help the present evil, and prevent future ones.

THE best advice I am capable to give in this case, I shall offer in the following articles.

1<sup>st</sup>, THE lady should live in a dry warm air, in one of the high rooms exposed to the south.

2<sup>dly</sup>, SHE should indulge in sleeping, going always to bed before nine, and waking by six. The bed and sheets must always be well dried.

\* *Hydatides*.

3<sup>dly</sup>,



3dly, EVERY morning when she wakes, all the belly must be gently rubbed for a good time with rough, dry warm flannel.

THIS ought to be done, constantly changing the direction. When it has been continued for a quarter of an hour, and all the pores are well opened, then must the belly be covered with a cloth on which the ointment *A*, is spread, and by a new friction, it (the ointment) must be forced into the skin, till it be all thus consumed. This article must carefully be performed likewise before she goes to bed, and indeed it is on this friction I depend most for the cure of the disease.

4thly, EVERY day an hour before dinner the lady must use exercise and that pretty vehement, either in a coach or on horse-back: the same must be repeated in the evening, after having digested what was eaten at dinner. This will greatly strengthen the natural force, and help much in casting off those burdens; she ought likewise the rest of the day to stir about and imploy herself in such work, as may rather exercise the body, than require great application of mind.

5thly, FOR common drink fresh Mead is the best, mixing with it a little white French wine; this is a most noble aperient and deobstruent, and is improved by boiling in it a little nutmeg. For her eating, all farinous roots, vegetables, pot-

herbs, fresh flesh and river fish are proper. She ought to eat very sparingly at a time and make the more meals.

6thly, WHEN all this is carefully attended to, it will at the same time be proper to use such internal medicines, as may gently resolve that thick and viscid matter, which is lodged in these *Vesicles*, taking great care however not to burst the small vessels; this will require long time, else we should harm these fine parts. As a specimen of those, I shall propose the pills B, of which the lady may take at six a clock of the morning three, drinking after them three ounces of the decoction C. This must be repeated at 7, 8, and 9 a clock. Thus she will take every day 12 pills and drink as many ounces. This course must be continued till the spring affords the juices of the new grown herbs, which will be of great service to the further cure of this disorder.

THE Spa waters will be of use in the summer time. H. B.

A.

R. Unguenti. *Alib. comp. unc. li.*

*Martialis unc. jss.*

*Nervini unc. j.*

*Olei Stillar. Lign. Rhod. gutt. vj.*

M.

B.

## B.

*R. Aloes puriss. drach. ss.*  
*Bulb. Ari recent. drach. j.*

*Croci optim. gr. ix.*

*Galbani drach. jss.*

*Myrrha drach. j.*

*Sap. Venet. drach. iij.*

*Terebinth. gr. vj.*

*M. f. pil. sing. gr. iij.*

## C.

*R. Rad. rec. conf. & contus. Anonid.*

*Ciccorei*

*Bryonii*

*Foeniculi*

*Petroselin ana unc. ij.*

*Sal. Polyebrest. drach. ij.*

*Tartar. Vitriolat. drach. jss.*

*Decoctis cum aqua spatio  $\frac{1}{2}$  horæ adde*

*Semin. recent. contus. Angelic.*

*Anisi*

*Carui*

*Feniculi ana drach. ij.*

Let them boil again for a little, and then to iv Pints of the decoction, add two ounces of the Syrup of v aper. roots.



## \*.\* LETTER XXVIII.

SIR,

MY disorder is as follows,—when I am out of order I have such an abundance of them \* that I am not able to stand; and they are so thin that they scarce colour my linnen, and very often a vast deal of blackish clods comes off. They have brought me so low, that I am obliged to keep my bed. If I have not speedy relief, 'tis impossible for me to hold out. I have no more colour than a piece of paper, and find my self wasting. Dr. A—, says it is a cold in my Womb, and ordered me nourishing broths, and to drink tent and claret.

I AM about fifty years old, of a thin lax habit of body, have had many children and all the births very difficult and laborious.

## \*.\* BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

THE cause of the sickness is consisting chiefly in a weakness of the vessels of the womb, whereby all the humours are running out, which makes a disposition to the dropsy.

IT

\* *menfes.*

It will be necessary to have all the body well rubbed with a flesh brush, or with a dry flannel.

A dry diet must be observed; no tea, or coffee, no great quantity of small beer, but roasted flesh and a glass of wine or tent; then for the common drink it is best to take milk boiled with a little cinnamon in it.

EVERY three hours of the day there must be taken three of the pills *A*, drinking after them a spoonful of the wine *B*, all the day from morning to evening; this all being continued so six weeks successively shall give great benefit.

*H. B.*

*A.*

*R. Gummi. Ammoniac.*

*Asae foetid.* ana drach. ss.

*Balsam. Peruvian.* gutt. vj.

*Bol. Armen.* drach. j.

*Campbor.* gr. vj.

*Catechu* drach. ij.

*Lap. Haematit.*

*Masticbes* ana drach. ss.

*Sarcocoll.* drach. j.

*Terebinth.* gr. xv.

*M. f. Pil. sing.* gr. iij.

*K 3*

*B.*

B.

*Cortic. Capparid. unc. ij.**Cinnamom. unc. iij.**Citrei flavi unc. ij.**Lign. Santal. Citrin. drach. iv.**Limat. Mart. recent. unc. ij.**Nucis Myristic. drach. iv.*

*Beat all these into a powder, and with six pints of rhenish wine, let there be made a medicinal wine.*

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## \* \* \* LETTER XXIX.

THE lady is now forty years of age, of a gross full body, and being frightened more than ordinary about twelve years ago, had the next day a violent colick attended with a flatulent distention of her stomach and intestines, which by the usual method was removed, and for some years was attacked with such another colick duly in the month of *July* or *August*; but about two years ago she was for some months, seldom free of these *Borborigmi* with lowness of spirits, faintness and violent pains in the back and left *Hypochondre*, which confined her much to her bed though she got no manner of sleep; being ordered riding, by so doing she passed urine of a dark mossy colour; with thick sediment but without sand. Last winter when the trouble returned, she made  
little



little or no quantity of urine for some months, but had great pain and a constant inclination to make urine and to go to stool, but could do neither; after this violent fit she passed some small stones, the size of big pins heads and a quantity of red sand, and some weeks after, by using the warm bath and drinking *Piedmont* water, she made urine white, mixed with some red matter; the warm bath was but twice used as it proved too severe. She was ordered to apply round the loyns and stomach, flannel cloths wrung out of boiled camomel as hot as could be endured, which gave her great relief; but these two months last past, every evening the trouble returns with excessive pains in the back and left side as formerly, and works always like a heart colick; while the fore fit continues, she is cold all over the body, and lying on a couch before a big fire, only so has ease by rubbing with warm cloths, and by taking a little warm cherry, sleeps and sweats and awakening makes plenty of urine without pain but some heat; this season her head and sight are affected; she is ordinarily constipated, her menstrual flux is regular though exceedingly painful, and when the fit is severe, and the stomach swelled, she obliges her self to throw up any nourishment she takes; she has born several children, but none these seven years; the physicians

here have ordered vomits of *Ipecacuana*, frequent clysters, gummous pills, volatile Salts, chalybeats and opiates, in various forms; her belly is always rolled by advice.

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### BOËRHAAVE'S ANSWER.

**I** HAVE carefully read over and considered the history of the disorder, and am of opinion, that it consists chiefly in these three; first there are obstructions in the *Coeliac* and *Meseraic* vessels, whence their free action is stopped: there is likewise too great a mobility in the nervous system, and lastly, there seems to be gravel lodged in the kidneys. The cure must be difficult considered by itself, and this is much increased from the necessity and repugnancy of opposite medicines: we must then so adapt those, as each indication will admit of, and they must at the same time answer to them all.

**I** ADVISE therefore in the first place, that the lady use as much exercise as she can well bear; nothing is more requisite for all the different intentions, than this is; it will be proper likewise, morning and evening to have all the belly well rubbed with rough dry warm cloths: there is no better

better remedy than this is, against wind and pains in the bowels.

I RECOMMEND likewise the use of the *Mafs A*, of which she may take one drachm four times a day; this may be done an hour before breakfast and dinner, at five a clock in the afternoon, and then an hour before supper for the last time. She must every time drink two ounces of the decoction *B*. As the lady will be so well directed, I need not mention any thing with regard to her diet; I earnestly recommend her going to bed at nine a clock and rising early, and she must sit but little all the day. This is the best course I can propose for this winter season, but when the spring gives us the fresh herbs, we may then entertain better hopes. In the mean time what I have recommended must be continued for six weeks at least, before we can expect that change to the better, which I heartily wish for. *H. B.*

*A.*

*R. Croci gr. xv.*

*Curcumæ drach. ss.*

*Lap Cancror. drach. j.*

*Mannæ Calabrin. unc. j.*

*Mastiche drach. ss.*

*Rhei drach. j.*

*Succi Glycyrrh. inspissat. unc. jss.*

*Terebinth. drach. j.*

Mix all these together, *S. A.* into a *Mafs*, which cover with powdered liquorice.

*B.*



B.

R. Rad. Bardan. unc. iv.

Eryngii unc. j.

Foeniculi unc. iij.

Paristar.

Scabior ana m. jfs.

Boil all these in fountain water for an hour, then put in of Agrimony, Betony, Balm of each an half handful, and let them all boil a little again, then strain off four pints of the decoction.

••

## LETTER XXX.

SIR,

I AM about thirty six years of age, by constitution fat, but not strong; having had two children, since which I have miscarried six or seven times, for which I have taken a great many restraining medicines, and am of opinion that has been somewhat the cause of obstruction. It is five years since I was with child, and about three years that I have wanted the course of nature except in some intermediate times. I was as I should be for about eleven months, when I had a fever with violent vomitings and purgings, and afterwards drank the Bath waters and bathed for three months, and that was this time two years. I had before been in a very ill state of health with frequent

quent fits of the colic, and I had a pleurisy which obliged the Doctors to order me to have sixty ounces of blood taken from me in four days, the loss of so much blood I did not recover in a great while, and the obstruction succeeded that disorder, which continued till the time I mentioned above. When I came from the *Bath* I mended very much, but *Christmas* was a twelve month I met with a great deal of trouble by a fright, which flung me into the yellow jaundice, and was so bad with that distemper, that my life was despaired of: I took a great many vomits, and other medicines that the physicians thought proper, and then again I wanted the course of nature, and was swelled to a great degree; I was ordered to the *Bath*, and there I swelled more when I drank the waters. The physician there Dr. Q—— said the waters were not proper as I was in a dropsy; so I drank but a small quantity of water, I tried bathing once, but that took away the use of my limbs, for two days, and the doctor said he did not approve of bathing: I took several strong purges which reduced my swelling pretty much, I continued taking physic for some months twice a week. I found that weakened my nerves, so I left it off, and by degrees gathered strength, and has had my health pretty well for eight months. I am plump, and look well and sleep tolerably. I have  
but

but an indifferent appetite, and am much troubled with wind ; I had the benefit of nature the beginning of *February* and not since ; my swelling is now returned, it is between my belly and stomach, not to a great size, but vastly hard like as if I was with child : the lower part of my belly is soft. When I am most swelled, I have often sick fits and am short breathed, my legs dont swell, nor have I a drought, I make a sufficient quantity of water, and go to stool two or three times a day, my ancles of a night swell a little.

I BEG, sir, you will be so good as give me your sincere opinion of my case very particularly, what food is most proper and what liquor. Cyder agrees with me.

If you think you cannot judge so well of it as by seeing of me, and if you think it necessary, I will come over to you. I am sir your humble servant, &c.

••• BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

*Madam,*

HAVING considered your case with the greatest attention, I am apt to think it shall be good to eat only dry meats, and to drink a glass of good cyder, and a little strong ale, to do so much



much exercise, as can be bear'd; at nine a clock it shall be necessary to go to sleep, all the place of the belly where the swelling is must be rubbed every morning and evening half an hour, with a dry flannel, the longer the better, and so strong as can be easily bear'd.

If you please to take three pills *A*, every three hours of the day from morning to evening, altime with two spoonfuls of the liquor *B*. All these being observed so three months successively, shall do great benefit to cure the sickness.

*Leyden, 1736. H. B.*

**A.**

*R. Aloes optim. drach. j.*

*Bulb. Ari. Recent. drach. ij.*

*Ol. Stillat. Junip. gutt. x.*

*Sapon. Venet. drach. iij.*

*Terebinth. drach. ss.*

*Trochiscb. de Myrrb. drach. ij.*

*M. f. Pil. gr. iij.*

**B.**

*R. Aq. Stillat. Rectificat. Junip. lb. ij.*

*Rob. Baccar. Junip. drach. jv.*

*Sal. Polychrest. drach. ij.*

*Spir. Junip. drach. iij.*

*Tinct. Contrajerv. drach. vj.*

**M.**

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**LET**

*always*

## LETTER XXXI.

SIR,

**M**Y daughter eleven years old of a very big growth, tall and broad though not fat, has had the small pox and meazells, and was always healthy till three years ago she had an ague in the spring, which brought her very low. She got the *Bark*, and thrice the fever returned, but the *Bark* in powder always put it away. This was from *April* to *August*, when an infusion of the *Bark* in cherry continued for a month, six spoonfuls a day carried it quite off. She continued well till next spring, and then she had ill formed fits of the ague every other day, but by an infusion of camomile flowers in water and vomits, it was carried off intirely. The third spring she was again attacked with an aguish illness, it came only every other day, but these days though she trembled not, she was slow, sick, could not eat, cold first, then feverish. She was tryed with vomits and bitters but it still continued, then she got six spoonfuls of juice of parley, and two of brandy every day for a week;—this freed her from the cold and hot fits and thirst, but her whole face swelled so, that a tea spoon could not be

be put in her mouth, nor could she open her jaw. By gentle physick that went off, but on the outside of her cheek there continued about the bigness of a nut for a month, and then it went off by keeping it warm with a scarlet cloth. It was thought proper she should go to the goat whey for it had brought her low; she was sent in *May* 1735, but by cold on the road in the night she went, she was seized with a violent tooth-ach on the left side. Things were applied to bring it to a supuration, and in eight days it broke outwardly just under the jaw bone. She was in excessive pain all the while, and neither slept nor eat, it was soon healed up and she drank goat whey till *August*. Then I sent for her, and in the journey through cold she got the tooth-ach again, and in eight days it broke again. It was soon healed up, and she got four or five doses of mercury and the hardness went off, and ever since she has had gentle physick: but this month there is grown what we call a wax-kernell just under her jaw, but it is loose not fast, and the eye on that side is very much inflamed, swelled and painful in the morning, but better at night. Nothing has been used but purging and bleeding, but her eye still continues sore and the wax kernell too; the cheek is very little swelled, the two teeth she complained of are hollow and pain her sometimes.



times. She has an issue in her arm; she has been in perfect health and heart, ever since the cheek broke last, the wax kernel is only sore to the touch.

Your advice, sir, &c.

### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

FROM the careful consideration of the young lady's disorder, I am induced to believe, that the frequent tertian agues which returned with the spring, have brought on the blood a *Gachymie* \* which the *Bark* has suppressed, but not cured. This original cause remaining was what occasioned the yearly return of the fever, now for the third time. To this likewise is owing the collection and inspissation of the *serous humours*, and such as are secreted by the several *glands*, and that principally about the parts where those *glands* are placed, as about the eyes, cheeks and jaw-bone. Hence also the whole body is affected with wandring and different pains.

In these circumstances the best method I can think of, is to use all endeavours to attenuate this *lentor*, and viscosity of the juices; to open the obstructed vessels, and thus to correct the disorder which

\* A depraved state of the juices.

which has now got deep root and constantly returns. For this purpose, I recommend the rubbing of the belly every morning when the stomach is most empty, with dry warm flannel, for the space of half an hour; *that we may remove the obstructions of the Viscera.* Then the temples, face, neck, all about the chin and ears, must in the same manner be well rubbed, and that for some time. The lady must use all manner of exercise, walking, dancing and such like; and the more she takes of this the better, that so the blood and humours may act with vigour from the muscular motion. As it has always been found that in those cases the *Liver* and its vessels were affected, it will be extremely necessary to resolve the matter which is there collected and concreted and to draw it off. This is obtained from the juice of *aperient* plants, which must be drunk for the space of six weeks. Therefore every morning after the rubbing, she must drink at seven a clock, eight and nine, each time one third of the juice *A*, fresh every day, and to make it more effectual, at going to bed, she must take three of the pills *B*. While she is drinking the juice, she must gently walk about, as is usually done in taking *Spa* waters. She must go to bed betimes and take great care not to expose herself to the night air and rather indulge in sleeping.

FOR eating, I would recommend what is solid, and at the same time easy of digestion, and to make three meals, a day. She may breakfast on biscuit, after she has taken the last dose of the juices. Dinner and supper of such things as I have just now mentioned, only avoiding dried and smoked fleshs, or such as are salted. All ripe summer fruits, potherbs, plants, milk, whey, will now and then be of service. After dinner and supper, it will not be amiss to drink a glass of wine to strengthen the stomach *and promote digestion.*

H. B.

A.

R. *Recentiss. Agrimon.**Bellid. Pratens.**Chasrophyll.**Endivie**Fumaria**Graminis ana M. j.*

*These must be beaten and cut small, then put into a press, their juice extracted, which must be fresh given to the patient every morning.*

B.

R. *Aloes puriss. gr. xv.**Borac. gr. vj.**Cremor. Tartar. gr. ss.**Sal. Polychrest.**Tartar. Vitriolat. ana gr. vj.**Terebinth. gr. iij.**M. f. s. a Pil. gr. iij.*

LET-



## \* \* \* LETTER XXXII.

THE lady who begs your advice is aged forty one years the mother of seven children, of a delicate constitution but good strong spirits; has for several years been sore afflicted with a cough and a plentiful expectoration, but more or less was able to mind the affairs of her house and not at all hectic.

ABOUT five years ago, she was delivered of a child in the seventh month which weakened her very much, and her health has been very fleeting ever since. The next year she was attacked with a *fluxus mensium enormis*, which continued for some time and brought her very low; after this she recruited pretty well, but the cough continued though in a less degree. About eighteen months ago, she was seized with a looseness, sweatings, loss of appetite, and her cough became very severe; after some time she again recovered a tolerable measure of health, and her cough has been less than before, but is much emaciated.

LAST spring upon being too much exposed to the cold, she became sick and much pained in her right arm, neck and head. She was blistered, used emollient and attenuating fomentations. Dry rubbing,

rubbing, anodyne embrocations and vomits, by all which she was again brought to her ordinary state of health, but only the pains remain yet in a small measure in that arm.

WITHIN these few weeks her digestion has become worse with somewhat of sickness in the night and heat, feels a hardness and swelling sometimes in one part of the *Abdomen*, sometimes in another, like as when a child moved in it; she is very costive, has transient pains in her neck and breast, but her cough is not very considerable except in the morning.

HER *Catamenia* are almost quite worn off, and what remains not of the natural colour, but blackish; she has no drought, but when the sickness in the night afflicts her. Of late her gums separate from some of her teeth, so that they are become loose.

SHE takes vomits frequently and throws up a considerable quantity of viscid phlegm, and is much relieved; she rides now and then in good weather, and useth commonly pretty much exercise at home.

THE advice she wants is to carry off the remaining pain in her arm and neck, and sickness in the night; to help her weak digestion and costiveness, and to rectify and strengthen her constitution as much as possible.

BOERHAAVE'S

## BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I AM much afraid that the lady's disorder proceeds from a weakness in the *Viscera*, whence the digestion is spoiled, and there is collected by degrees a *Pblegm*, and the vital forces are impaired. What I think will prove the best remedy in this case, is for the patient to take every morning when the stomach is empty, at seven, eight and nine a clock in bed each time five of the pills *A*, drinking immediately after them four ounces of warm milk, mixed with an equal quantity of *Spa* water, from the well *Pouboon*. Then all the belly must be gently rubbed for the space of a quarter of an hour, with rough, dry, warm cloths. Riding is extremely proper; the more frequent the better. The arm likewise where she complains of the pain, and neck must be rubbed in the same manner: It will also be of service to apply a blister to that arm once a week, which may be kept on for twelve hours, and then the part healed up: this may be done four times. These are all the directions I have to offer in this case, and pray God they may be of use.

Leyden. 1713.6. H. B.

DETRAHAT

L 3

A.



## A.

R. *Balsam. Peruv.* drach. ℥.*Bulb. Ari* drach. j.*Curcumas* drach. ss.*Myrrbas* drach. j.*Opopanax.* drach. jss.*Sap. Venet.* drach. iij.*Terebinth.* drach. ss.

M. f. pilul. gr. iij.

## ••• LETTER XXXIII.

**A** YOUNG gentleman about fourteen years of age, of a florid hail constitution has had a bad cough, hoarseness and shortness of breath ever since the beginning of last *August*; that we think might be occasioned by over much bathing, and staying too long in the water this last season. For a considerable time past he has been obliged to sit up by the fire most part of the night, the cough and asthma being so bad. I was called about thirteen days ago and prescribed a purging potion, that worked him too briskly, but was rather relieved; the following was a common *Linctus*, and a few pectoral lozenges. On the thirteenth instant Dr. K—— was sent for and prescribed as follows.

DETRAHATUR

DETRAHATUR sanguis ex brachio ad uncias vij, vel viij. crastino mane applicetur empl. epispastic. magnum inter scapulas; & bibat ex aqua & lacte p. æ. mistis balsam. sulph. Terebith ʒss. optime terantur in mortario donec penitus dispareant globuli mercurii.—R. *Pilul. rusi* ʒss. *Pulv. Milleped.* ʒj. *Rad. Scyll. rec. contus* ʒss. *Ol. Anis. Chem. gutt.* vi. *Sal. volat. succin.* ʒss, *Oxymell. Scyll.* q. s. f. pil. magnitud. commun; quarum capiat iij. omni nocte hora somni superbibendo ʒj. vel unciam unam & semissem decoct. pectoral.

ONE dose of the foregoing gave him three large stools, so that the Dr. thought fit to omit them; and the blister was not applied by reason of the boys aversion to it. *Fullers* common *lobach* with the addition of *sperm. cet.* was ordered, and bleeding was repeated last Monday. Dr. K—— judged his case to be a *Peripneumonia*; his phlegm is not so much in quantity and pretty digested, his fits not so violent at present. The fever whether symptomatic or hectic, I cannot determine; but am afraid of the worst.

## BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

**I**T is to be feared that by the gentleman's staying so long in the cold water (which circumstance should have been first mentioned in the description) the *Nerves* belonging to the *Diaphragm* have been hurt, and hence so bad an *Asthma*. This disorder is difficult of cure, which is very plain from this consideration, that so strong remedies as those already tryed, have done little or no service.

I THINK the gentleman should try, what the exercise of riding might do; but then it must be pretty violent, daily and long continued.—I am confident it would be of service, and must recommend it as the principal remedy in this case: in the mean time we must join to it what is proper for the *Nerves*. Let him then every three hours, swallow three of the pills *A*, drinking immediately after them two ounces of the mixture *B*. I expect great benefit from this course, if continued in for three months, and pray God may bless it.

H. B.

A.



R. *Asas foetid.*  
*Edellii*  
*Castor*  
*Gamban.*  
*Myrrh.*  
*Opopanax.*  
*Ol. Stillat. Succin.*  
*Sal. Volatil. Succin. ppti ana dr. jss.*  
*Terebinth. gr. xv.*  


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*M. f. pil. gr. iij.*

R. *Aq. Stillat. Melissae*  
*Rose*  
*Rosmar. ana unc. vj.*  
*Tinct. Succin. unc. ij.*  
*Myrrh. drach. iij.*

M. f. pil. gr. iij.

L E T T E R XXXIV.

A GENTLEMAN of about sixty years of age,  
 has been for about six or seven years af-  
 flicted with *Convulsions* on one side of his face;  
 which are attended with a very acute pain in his  
 jaw, and a great flux of *Rheum* at the same time.  
 He has these fits frequently many in an hour:  
 and they often continue several days together, and  
 at

at all other times he is pretty free from them for several weeks together, he has two issues in his back, and has taken several *Cephalic* and *anticonvulsive* medicines, from which he has hitherto got no relief. He has a good appetite, and is never sick after eating; but eating very often brings the pain upon him: he has had all his teeth drawn on the side affected.

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#### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

**A**FTER carefully considering the description given of the disorder, I would advise the gentleman to try the following course; as being in my opinion the properest.

1<sup>st</sup>, HE must every evening half an hour before going to bed, bathe his feet in fresh water, then dry them well and rub them with flannel.

2<sup>dly</sup>, HE must every morning wash his head in cold water, and then have it well rubbed.

3<sup>dly</sup>, THREE days before new and full moon (so twice a month) let him take at six a clock in the morning the powder M, that so he may be sufficiently purged in order to eradicate the disease: The day he takes this *Physic*, he must keep at home and live very sparingly.

4thly, He must the other days of the month take thrice a day, an hour before breakfast, dinner and supper, at each time three of the pills B, drinking after each dose two ounces of the mixture C. All this must be continued for three months, in hopes of relief from the disorder.

H. B.

A.

R. *Agaric. gr. viij.*

*Resin. Jalapp. gr. v.*

*Scammon. gr. iij.*

*Turbitb. Mineral. bene ppti gr. j.*

*Sacchar. puriss. gr. vj.*

Mix all these together in a glass mortar into a thin powder.

B.

R. *Gummi. Ammon.*

*Myrr. Poen.*

*Bulb. Ari. recent.*

*Sap. Venet.*

*Myrrb.*

*Succin ppti*

*Terebinthin. ana drach. j.*

M.F. *Pillulae sing. gr. iij.*

C.



**R. Aq. Stillat. Sambuc.**

**Majorani.**

**Rosmarin.**

**Rutae.**

**Salviae.**

**Spir. Melissae ana unc. ij.**

**Tinct. Castor.**

**Succini ana drach. ij.**

**M.**

## •• LETTER XXXV.

**T**HE lady is aged about forty, naturally of a good constitution, but has been very much harrassed by a great number of fevers, which have rendered her liable to slight nervous disorders. Her appetite is generally good or rather voracious; but the complaint for which we now apply to you, and which has baffled all our physicians here, is an inability of going to stool without taking a purging medicine. She has been in this way these nine or ten years, and was always subject to an hereditary costiveness, but different from her present complaint, which I forbear to call a costiveness, because her stools are never of an hard consistence nor excluded with pain; though she has gone frequently twelve or thirteen days without unloading, and eats heartily all

all the time. She feels no uneasiness for want of a stool, but a little fullness and sleepiness; has no motions bearing down, or piles. She is subject to a nervous head ach, which is likewise hereditary, and returns upon any irregularity of living or catching cold. It is sometimes ushered in with an easy natural stool; which is the only time she ever has any. She is likewise subject on these occasions to fall into a purging. She does not observe that she is more subject to those head aches, when she has gone a great while without a stool than at any other time. She supposes to have received the hereditary disposition to the head ach from her grandfather, who was subject to it all his time; but not costive. Her grandmother from whom she supposes to have derived the costive habit (which she was always subject to till this new complaint) was never liable to the head ach.

*P. S. Quaeritur* if the deficiency lies in the expulsive faculty; or the want of the peristaltick motion in the intestines? whether it may properly be called a costiveness, being not of a lean habit nor being used to rough wines, nor subastringent dyet, nor has been subject to any of these diseases, in which costiveness is generally an attendant, as the *passio Iliaca*, *Colica Pittonum* &c. whether or no the muscular fibres of the intestines

tines may not be weakned by being over stretched, as consequently they must be when distended with twelve or thirteen days hearty eating? whether the *Sphincter ani* is any way in the fault? she requires no large dose of a purging medicine, nor retains clysters any immoderate time excepting the last, which was composed of nothing but a decoction of camomile flowers and oyl, without any thing stimulating.

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BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER:

UPON considering the case, I am of opinion that there is no harm to be feared from the patient's going so seldom to stool: this state of the body proceeds from the force of the *Intestine*, the quick action of the *Lacteals*, and a large *perspiration*; nor ought we to disturb it by medicines. This I think is pretty plain, when we consider that notwithstanding her hearty living and want of stool, there has not appeared any hard swelling of the belly, weight or tumour. \* Besides a more advanced age will certainly remove this complaint.

\* BOERHAAVE explained this case by a parallel one of those that go to places under the *Æquator*, who eat commonly there three times as much as in other climates, and very seldom go to stool. This also often happens to us *English*, in *Italy*.



The only one remedy I can safely recommend, is that the lady would take in the morning at seven a clock, half an hour before eight, at eight a clock and half an hour before nine, each time one ounce of this mixture, and continue so for the space of six weeks.

H. B.

A.

R. *Aq. stillat. Cicbor.*

*Fumar. ana unc. vij.*

*Manas optiq. unc. j.*

*Sal. Prunell. drach. j.*

*Syrup. Cicbor. drach. j.*

*Pulp. Tamarind, drach. x.*

M.

•• LETTER XXXVI.

SIR,

MY ill state of health and other occurrences prevent my coming to you personally, which otherwise I would have gladly done; but I hope I shall give you a genuine description of my case, which together with the gentlemen's assistance, the bearer hereof will enable you to form a true judgment of it, and to order something for my speedy relief. I enjoyed a tolerable state of health till I was twenty years old, when I was seized

seized with a violent fever which continued five weeks; and for which I took large quantities of the bark, which am afraid caused a total obstruction of the *menfes*: for since that time I have had no farther appearance of them at all.

HENCE ensued a long train of hysteric symptoms; which immoderate grief likewise hath very much contributed to. You will readily suppose that so long an illness, with a total suppression of all natural \* evacuations must have emaciated me to the last degree; yet I find an increase of appetite, and a continual craving for the most heavy and viscid food, † which I immediately

WHEN the Doctor read this part of the letter, he was much surpris'd and asked several questions, about the frequency of the patients making water, going to stool, the colour and consistence of the *sterces*, &c. To which answer was made, that she used to go to stool, and make water once a week; that her urine was of a straw colour, and smelt high; that the *sterces* were black and foetid; that about half a year ago, the excrements had been whitish, but never since that time unless during a fever, which was pretty vehement and returned after six months; that the black *sterces* were hard, but those that were white, soft and fluid. Sweat never supplies the place of these evacuations, for the lady's constitution was dry and hectic.

† THERE was no food so hard or viscid which she did not eat of, and that in a good quantity, but could scarce retain it for an half hour without throwing it up, and so was presently hungry. Drink sometimes remained longer, but then it was

mediately bring up again, as I do indeed meats of a light and easy digestion. I have a continual pain in my breast and bowels, and can feel something at the pit of my stomach outwardly hard and knotted. My case for these twelve months past hath been judged by the physicians here to be a *nervous Atrophy*, owing to a thorough obstructed state of the glands. I suspect my preternatural appetite to be canine; but am told it is only depraved from a degenerate state of the juices of the stomach, which I my self perceive to be extremely acid. I fear my condition is quite deplorable, and shall quite despair without a prospect of relief from you,

*from your unknown*

*bumble servant*

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BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

HAVING considered with all possible attention the case, I was surprized at the singularity of it.

*in a very small quantity, and free of all wine or spirits, also she profusely vomited. There is no external tumour, her body appears tight, and she complains of something hard at her pituit. She has taken a vast many medicines, and all to no purpose a bleeding often, and in very small quantities, was the only thing gave her relief; but this has been long discontinued by reason of her great weakness.*

M

It



It is very probable that there is so strong a power of digestion in the stomach and bowels, that the nourishment is made so subtle, that it is driven all into the internal vessels of the body and dissipated by *Diaphoresis*. By these is a great quantity of sharp humour in these same *Viscera*; giving speedy digestion and a corrosion of the nervous parts, so soon there is no matter to be digested.

1<sup>st</sup>, I recommend a vomiting *A*, to be taken every morning at an empty stomach, three days successively with good direction.

2<sup>dly</sup>, AFTER these, at the fourth and the following days, it will be good to take every three hours of the day at every time three pills *B*, to drink immediately thereupon two ounces of the apozem *C*, warm.

3<sup>dly</sup>, EVERY morning after sleeping, it shall be very necessary to rub the belly half an hour with a dry hot flannel.

4<sup>thly</sup>, EVERY evening shall the lady sit before a fire, so that the place of her back where the kidneys are placed naturally, may be exposed to the warmth; then these places must be well rubbed but softly with a flannel, and then the rubbed place must be ointed with a little from the ointment *D*.

5<sup>thly</sup>,

5thly, IT is very commendable to the lady to eat a great deal of biscuit, instead of bread with her other meals.

6thly, For common drink in this case, the best of all shall be water boiled with honey, hereby the hardness of the excrement will be reduced to softness.

I HOPE the execution of these prescriptions may be healthful for the lady; but before the good effect it must be used at least six weeks successively.

Leyde 17 $\frac{1}{2}$  37. H. B.

A.

R. Take powder of Ipecacuana root, two scruples, infuse it all night in two ounces of white French wine, and close the glass. Strain it next morning and add to it Oxymel of Squills, four drachms.

B.

R. Aloes Succotrin. drach. j.

Gumm. Ammon. drach. ij.

Myrrhas drach. jss.

Sapon. Venet. drach. jv.

Sperm Ceti. drach. j.

Terebinth. drach. ss.

M. f. pil. gr. iij.

M 2

C

R. *Flor. Alb.* p. iij.

*Fol. Alb.* m. iij.

*Rad. Alb.* unc. ij.

Cum aq. Decoct. per horam. adde

*Semih. Colus. Anethi*

*Angelic.*

*Asif ana unc. j.*

*Mellis optimi unc. ij.*

Keep them again for two hours in the close vessel bet, but not boiling; then give for use four Pints.

D.

R. *Unguent. Martial.*

*Nervin. ana unc. j.*

*Ol. Scorpion. drach. jv.*

*Vitell. Ovi. drach. j.*

M. S. A. P. Linimentum.

## •• LETTER XXXVII.

THE gentleman is about fifty six years old, naturally of a pretty good constitution, but has perhaps always made too free with it, living for the most part on a flesh and animal dyet, drinking wines and other spirituous liquors frequently to great excess. About seven years since being very much out of order, vomited a great quantity of collected blood, and voided some likewise by stool; after which he was tolerably well and



and continued so for the greatest part of the year, when he was taken with a violent pain and distention of the hypochondriacal regions, which continues sometimes for a day or two, and generally goes off upon parting with wind either upwards or downwards; he has ever since been afflicted after this manner, sometimes twice or three times a week. His urine is pretty natural, both as to quantity and quality; he is very costive having not a stool more than once in three or four days, and often not more than once a week, and then but in a very small quantity: this costiveness with the windy distentions of his stomach, he believes it to be the chief cause of his disorder, to prevent which he chewed *Rhubarb* for a considerable time, and drank a purging elixir: he has likewise used many other medicines of the like nature, but to little purpose, they ease him for the present, but as soon as their action ceases, so does their effect; his stomach is sometimes pretty good, at other times but indifferent; if he chances to eat a little more than ordinary, he is immediately affected with the windy distention of the stomach, and he is not easy till he vomits; he observes his *Penis* to be drawn sometimes to one side, sometimes to the other, but without any uneasiness. Any violent motion either of body or mind, commonly brings the disorder on him,

he is now very thin by the long continuance of his disorder, and is sometimes from his great costiveness, troubled with the piles.

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BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

**I**HAVE carefully considered the history of the disorder, and would advise the gentleman to make tryal of the following medicines, as being in my opinion the best to be used in this case. He must four times a day at each time, take five of the pills *A*, an hour before breakfast and dinner, at five in the afternoon, and an hour before he sups : he must every time drink after them three ounces of the decoction *B*. Moderate exercise will be of great service. All this must be continued at least for six weeks, in hopes of a change to the better :

*H. B.*

*A.*

*R. Balsam. Peruvian. drach. ss.*

*Masticb. drach. j.*

*Myrrb. drach. ij.*

*Sap. Venet. drach. iij.*

*Succi Glycyrrb. inspissat. drach. ij.*

*Terebinth. drach. ss.*

*M. F. Pil. gr. iij.*

*B.*

R.

*R. Flor. Albæ**Consolid. maj. ana. p. ij.**Fol. Albæ**Parietar.**Scabios.**Virg. Aur. ana. m. ij.**Rad. Glycyrrb. unc. j.*

Boil all these in fresh Water for the space of half an hour;  
then strain through a cloth four pints of the decoction.

## • • • L E T T E R XXXVIII.

**T**HIS lady when about six or seven years old, had a fever which was attended with a very bad cough, so as to threaten her with danger of falling into a consumption, but in half a years time she grew better of that disorder, and was affected with something of the green sickness, eat paper, and in so private a manner as not to be discovered, till she was reduced to great Weakness by it. By proper medicines she was relieved though not quite freed from all her complaints; at twelve or thirteen years old, in the morning as she was getting up, she fell down in a fit and lay sometime without motion before she came to herself again.



ABOUT a fortnight after she had another fit, but that after she was up. When she is first seized, her sight is quite gone, she falls immediately; towards the end she struggles very much, foames at the mouth, and it is for some time after she has recovered her speech that her sense and memory returns; she complains of a disorder in her head, and for a day or two afterwards of a soreness in her limbs, as if she had been beaten; she feels unusual motion in her bowels, and her stools come sometimes involuntary away from her: She has no warning before the fits come, nor do they keep any periodical Time, none sometimes in two months, other times three in a fortnight, but never yet two fits in the same day.

SHE has very often such twitchings in her hands, that she can hold nothing, and for that moment her sense is perfectly gone, but no fit follows. Hysterical choakings, faintings and other nervous disorders, in the intervals at a great distance from her fits; the *menfes* come one time or other in the month, but generally in too great a quantity.

THE following medicines were prescribed. *Sal. jovis, visc. quercin. extract. & tinctura Hellebor. nigr. & Tinct. valerian. Sylvestr. Castor. Sal. succin. Limatur. stanni, Gum. Ammoniac. Galban. Crocus,*  
but

but not at all relieved by them, she has had Issues several years, cold bathing likewise has had no effect.

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•• BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

HAVING considered with all possible attention the proposed case, I am of the following opinion,

THAT the cause of the fits is a sort of defect of the spirits after the ceasing of the fever, — seeing that the best sorts of general and specific medicines, and methods have no good effect hitherto, I am afraid it will not be very easy to find out any better, but I seriously recommend the use of the following prescription.

LET the lady take every three hours of the day a spoonful at a time of the medicinal wine *A* with these directions, that it may be immediately before eating, these must be continued for two months by this Course: exercise is extreamly required.

H. B.

A.

A.

R *Cortic. Tamarisc.* unc. iij.*Cinnamom.* unc. ij.*Limat. Mart. rec.* unc. ijs.*Radic. Contrajerva.* drach. ss.*Serpentar. Virginian.* drach. j.*Pason, Mar.* drach. iij.*Valerian. Sylvestr.* drach. jr.*Semin. Dauc. Cretic.* drach. vj.

Mix all these together into a gross powder, whence with a pint and an half of old Hock, let there be prepared S. A. a medicinal Wine.

## LETTER XXXIX.

**A**GENTLEMAN, sixty two years old who has been subject to *Hypocondriac disorders*, labours at present under an obstruction of the liver, spleen, stomach, mesentery, and in short of all the *Viscera*: There has also been such a large collection of sharp and acid humours in the stomach, for these thirty four years last past, that his breathing is much disturbed and become difficult, He has so great an itching over all his skin, that he cannot help scratching himself so as frequently to bleed. He is likewise subject to *Rheumatic* pains, though not very sharp, which wander over all the body, and is costive. He has had these complaints



complaints for thirty four years. The disorder was not so well treated as it ought, for the most eminent physicians here discovered only four months ago, that the original cause of the disease, was the vast collection of acid matter in his stomach; they formerly chiefly minded the *Asthma*, not then perceiving it to be only *Symptomatic*. He is very subject to colds, and when seized with them has a running at the nose, which continues commonly for three or four days; the *Asthma* commonly attacks him the fourth day, which proceeds from the viscidness of the juices. I shall not mention the many other symptoms which attend *Hypochondriac disorders*, and which are in this patient so violent, that the physicians at *Lovain* are all of opinion he must have been dead long ago, had he not been of a very robust constitution.

Paris, Oct. 12, 1735.

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BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE carefully considered the case and am of opinion, that an *Atrabilarious* scorbutic and gritty matter abounds every where, and that hence the *Chylopoetic Organs* are obstructed. Had this matter however been very acrimonious, the patient could not have supported it for so many years.

years. We must then endeavour to dissolve this viscid matter, to open the vessels and draw the humours downwards, gently and with proper caution. In the mean time the *Acid* which now prevails must be tempered.

*For these ends*, I advise the patient to take four times a day, an hour before breakfast, dinner, at five a clock in the afternoon, and an hour before he goes to bed, each time three of the pills described at the letter *A*, drinking warm after them three ounces of the liquor *B*.

EVERY morning he must have his sides and belly well rubbed with warm, dry flannel, for the space of half an hour.

HE must take a good deal of exercise, walking and riding as much as his strength and the weather will permit, and chiefly when his stomach is empty.

THIS is the best method I can recommend at this time of the year, which is not so proper to take physic in, — if however it be carefully observed, it may do great service, which I pray God grant.

H. B.

## A.

R. *Coral. Rubr.* drach. ss.  
*Lap. Haemat.* drach. j.  
*Limat. Mart.* drach. jss.  
*Opopanac.* drach. ss.  
*Sapon Feret.* drach. iij.  
*Tersbinth.* drach. ss.  
M. F. Pil. gr. jv. circiter.

## B.

R. *Rad. Bardan.* unc. jv.  
*Eryngii* unc. iij.  
*Fenice.*  
*Gramin.* ana unc. ij.

Cut all these small and beat them, — then let them steep in water all night, and boil them next morning for the space of half an hour. Then add of the shavings of Santal Citrin wood two Drachms, Sassafras one ounce. — Let them boil a little again and in four pints of the decoction dissolve four ounces of Marshmellows honey.

## LETTER. XL.

IN the month of April 1732, a lady aged forty six, playing at cards was suddenly seized with a paralytic disorder in her tongue and right arm; she lost in a moment the use and motion of these parts, and complained likewise of a weight and uneasiness in her neck; these were her sole complaints; for she otherwise was able to do the affairs



fairs of the family with her usual chearfulness. She was first let blood and afterwards took a vomit; the *French* physicians here, and an *English* physician of great character advised the *Bourbon waters and Bath*, and till the proper season for using them should come, they ordered the following remedies; the *paralytic drops*; mustard prepared with milk and white-wine; decoction of the woods and a *Tincture* prepared with spirit of wine; *Pills of Asa fetida* and such like, by means of which she in some measure recovered the use of her speech.

SHE afterwards went to *Bourbon* and received great benefit from the waters, and hot bath, but would not allow the spring to run on the affected parts. As she was not thoroughly cured, she went again in the month of *September*, and then kept the parts affected under the spring, drinking likewise the waters, and using the bath: She then recovered and had no complaint but of an heaviness in her head for three years after, for which she thrice applied a blister to her head, and had relief. Last *June* after some unexpected troubles, she had a new return of the disorder, but did not intirely lose the use of her tongue, for she pronounced her words tho' indistinctly; she likewise had a *numbness* which attacked one side: however after being blooded in the ankle, and taking a vomit she grew better, but did not perfectly recover,

cover, and so went for the third time to *Bourbon* in the month of *September*, and received there great benefit from the waters, though the heaviness of her head, and a kind of thickens in the tongue do still remain. The *French* physicians suspected the pain in the foot which she sometimes complained of to proceed from a flying gout; but that pain is now gone.

SHE now takes the *Mustard*, *Paralytic Drops*, *Tincture of Lillies*, and *Tincture of Asa Fœtida*; but the *Stupor* in the head and tongue remains, though she has recovered the use of her right hand.

EVERY small accident discomposes her; her circumstances do not permit her to make more journeys to *Bourbon*. She has been blooded in the foot four times a year, contrary to the opinion of the *English* physician already mentioned. She bears vomits very easily, and one ounce and an half of *Manna* proves a sufficient purge: she is naturally of a very delicate make and has very tender nerves. She was subject from her infancy to a *Colic* without a looseness, she earnestly begs your advice both with regard to medicines and diet.

## BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

**I** ADVISE the lady to take twice in the month the purge *A*, three days before the new moon, and as many before the full moon. Let her the other days of the month, an hour before breakfast dinner and supper, take at each time three of the pills *B*, and drink after them one ounce of the mixture *C*. She must wash her head in cold water every morning, and in the evening bath her legs in warm water for the space of half an hour.

ALL manner of exercise is proper, and the more she takes, it is the better. Let her go to bed at nine a clock, and rise early: she may employ herself in the household affairs till noon, and afterwards divert herself as she likes best, without minding any business. This course ought to be followed for six weeks.

*Leiden, H. B.*

A.



## A.

R. *Cinnab. Nativ. Hungar.* gr. vj.

*Massas Pil. Fostid.* gr. ix.

*Pil. Rasi* gr. x.

*Sal. Polychrest.* gr. iij.

M. F. *Pil. No.* ix.

Sumantur una vice.

## B.

R. *Asas Fostid.* drach. fs.

*Castor. Siberic.* gr. ix.

*Galban.* drach. jfs.

*Myrrb.* gr. xv.

*Olei Stillat. Rosmar.* gutt. x.

*Sal. Volat. Succin.* gr. vj.

*Terebinth.* gr. iij.

M. F. *Pil. sing.* gr. iij.

## C.

R. *Aq. Stillat. Lavandul.*

*Majoran.*

*Rosmarin.*

*Rutas*

*Salvias ana* unc. iij.

*Spir. Rosmarin* drach. v.

*Tinctur. Succin.* drach. iij.

M.

N

LET.

## LETTER XLII.

SIR,

I SEND you the history of a very obstinate disorder of a young lady here, whose parents ordered me to consult you as they expect some relief from your advice. I shall not then longer detain you, but proceed to the history itself, which is as follows.

THE young lady is now three years and nine months old, of a very tender and delicate constitution: Her parents are healthy, but she had the misfortune to have a nurse the three last months she sucked, who as was generally believed had some indisposition. In her fourth month, she had a very violent fever, after which she was seized with a moist scurvy and itching, with some tumors, one of which suppurated near the arm-pit, and kept running a purulent matter; this *Scurvy* continued almost four months, but in *December 1733*, being then in her seventh month she was weaned, and by a proper diet and regimen perfectly recovered her health. In *October 1734*, when she was able to walk alone, she one day had a fall on her left leg and bruised her knee against the floor. In about twenty four hours after, there

there was a swelling perceived on the knee, attended with inflammation and pain; but these and the other symptoms were removed by washing the part with warm camphorated spirit of wine, and the like, and the patient in some measure recovered the use of the joint, though she was observed all next winter to walk infirm. She had likewise tumors on the inside of the thigh above the *Gracilis* and *Sartorius* muscles, and about the knee among the *Flexor-tendons*. Many different applications were made, though to little purpose, to discuss the swellings and strengthen the joints, as *Sp. Vin. Campb.* Camphorated hungary water.

*viz.*

*R. Vitriol: Roman:*

*Boli veri ana drach. j.*

*Campbor. drach. ss. f. Pulvis subtilissimus Et injiciatur in aquæ fontanæ bullientis lib 1. fiat aq. Campbor. turbida.*

VINEGAR mixed with cold water was likewise applied and she used the cold bath. In the month of may 1735, after the knee had been wrapt round with the *Emplastr. de minio cum Sapone* for about twelve days, a tumor arose about the size of an hens egg full of an ichorous matter, on the inside of the thigh hardly two inches above the



bending of the knee on the upper part of the *Sartorius*: This tumor was opened with a lancet in the lower part, and a thin sanious *Ichor* flowed from it in a large quantity.

THE wound was cicatrised in about two weeks by means of a digestive and plaster; but an inflammation coming on the part, the ulcer was again opened with a sponge-tent, and washed every day with a deterfive liquor thrown into it through a syphon. The cavity of it extended upwards by the *Musculus Sartorius* about an inch and an half. Small tents of sponge done over with a digestive, and the red *Precipitate* were also frequently put into the orifice, especially in the day time, and in the night pledgits made of lint, and covered with a digestive supplied their place. At the same time to prevent the inflammation (which from the first beginning) the part had been subject to, the thigh was wrapped round with a defensive plaster the breadth of three inches above the orifice of the fore. This method was continued for four weeks or more, and then the matter being better digested, and likewise much diminished in quantity, the tents were taken out, and the ulcer was cicatrised, and cured about the end of *July* by the means of a proper bandage. The patient took no internal remedy save *Æthiops Mineral*, and that in very small doses twice a day, which

which she continued to take all the following autumn. She then likewise used to dip her legs and thighs frequently in cold water to strengthen them, and by the month of *July* all the former bad appearances wore off, save only that the left knee at the joint was larger than the right: she continued thus well to the end of *December*, only had the accident of a fall on the floor in *November* which strain'd her left leg and brought on an inflammation, swelling, and pain in the outside of the left knee by the joint. However by washing it frequently with warm brandy, the inflammation and other symptoms went off in about six days, and the young lady was able to walk without help as formerly to the twenty third of *December*, when without any fall or other apparent cause (as I just now mentioned) the left leg was suddenly retracted and a small tumor was perceived on the knee which was no ways painful, and yielded to the pressure of the finger being of the same colour of the skin; it lay on the inside betwixt the knee and the lower part of the knee-pan. There was likewise a retraction of the flexor muscles of the leg; she could bend it, but not stretch it out, nor could hardly set her foot to the ground or walk without help.

THE first applications that were made to the tumor, were warm spirit of wine, and camphorated spirit of Wine. The tendons also of the flexor muscles below the joint were soaked with the steam of hot water to prevent them from growing rigid, and afterwards rubbed over with *Oleum Lumbri-corum*. In the beginning of January 1736, several physicians were consulted who attempted to discuss the Tumor in the following manner.

First, The joint affected was wrapt in linnen (four folded) which was dipt in warm *Spiritus Minderi*, and this was renewed three times a day.

Secondly, She was forbid to move her leg in the least and strictly enjoined to keep it still.

Thirdly, *Æthiops mineral* was given twice a day in small doses, and once a week ten grains of the best *Rhubarb* and two grains of *Aquila Alba*. This method was carefully pursued for two months, at which time there appeared a great many inflammatory pustules attended with pain and swelling in the fore-part of the affected knee. The pain and pustules soon disappeared, but the swelling which was of the same kind with that described below the *Patella* still remained, and the joint itself grew bigger. In the month of March the young patient was allowed the motion of her leg, and the joint



joint was washed with cold water in place of *Spiritus Minderi*, but we could observe no change for the better: In *April* we left off the cold water, and the knee was now washed with vj ounces of *Campborated* spirit of wine, and half an ounce of the spirit of *Sal. Ammoniac*. In *May* the tendons were anointed with palm oil instead of the *Oleum Lumbricorum*. At that time she drunk wine infused with *Millepedes*, but without any observable change. In *June* she began to move the joint somewhat better, and stretch her leg out though with difficulty, and was observed to walk without help; yet still the swelling on the knee remained.

At this time the young lady drank whey made from goats milk, but took no internal remedy nor used any external application except *Palm Oil*, which was rubbed on the tendons on the inside of the knee. In the beginning of the month of *July* she went in a coach to *Moffat* a town in the south of *Scotland*, and there drank the medicinal waters which abound with a native *Sal Polychrest* for the space of three months: she likewise bathed all over in those waters moderately warm twice a week, and the affected knee was washed in them once a day. She recovered a little the use of the joint in the months of *July* and *August*, but in *September*, after washing the knee with a kind

of *Poffet* made with *Alum*, in order to take away the swelling which was not then lessened, the joint became again stiff and immoveable, and she soon lost the power of walking and extending her leg, she was obliged to return home in the month of *October*, by reason of the coldness of that climate, since which there has hardly been any change in the disorder, which is at present as follows.

*First*, A fungous tumor appears without pain, which yields to the touch, not much broader than the fourth part of an inch, on the outside of the left knee, betwixt the bottom of the *Rotula* and the external *Epiphysis* of the *Tibia*; the *Rotula* is moveable but is covered with a swelling of the same nature.

*Secondly*, A swelling on the internal *Epiphysis* of the *Tibia*.

*Thirdly*, A swelling on the sides and anterior part of the knee.

*Fourthly*, A visible retraction of the *Flexor* muscles of the *Tibia*. There is likewise a swelling amongst the *Tendons* in the ham, but no appearance of a suppuration there or on the knee.

*Fifthly*, The *Tibia* is much emaciated, but neither there nor on the knee doth the patient feel pain, or can we perceive any discoloration:

She

She can bend the leg, but cannot extend it or set her foot to the floor. There is not at present any application made to the anterior part of the knee, but the Flexor-Tendons in the ham are daily anointed with *Oleum Lumbricorum*. She takes no internal remedy save a daily infusion of *Sarsaparil* and *Sassafras Wood*. Sometimes she drinks of an infusion of *Rhubarb* in *French* white wine, which they used to give her when she was no more than a year old. We design to send her this spring to *Moffat* for the benefit of the waters. Her diet has always been good and of an easy digestion, such as barley broths, soups, wheat-bread and the like, but she is forbid fish, milk, all sort of heavy and high season'd meats. Her common drink is good fermented small beer. The young lady has no other disorder but the one I have now at large described; she is brisk, sleeps well, has a good appetite and digestion, and goes regularly to stool. We beg leave to learn of you from this description. 1<sup>st</sup>, the *Diagnosis*, *Prognosis*, and method of cure. 2<sup>dly</sup>, If from the inability to extend the leg the † *Linimentum Haverhamianum*

18

† ALL the cavities of the body, and especially those parts where motion is performed, are lubricated with an oily *mucus*, which prevents inflammation and facilitates their motion. The liquor separated for this purpose by the mucilaginous glands placed



is turning thick and viscid, whence an *Anchylosis* is to be apprehended? 3<sup>dly</sup>, If from the swelling of the *Epiphysis*, the external parts, viz. the muscles or cellular membrane, or the bone itself is affected?

4<sup>thly</sup>, CAN we from a chymical analysis of the *Moffat* waters judge if they are proper to be used in this disorder? or though there is reason to fear a suppuration of the tumour on the knee, may not the washing of it with those waters warm prevent it?

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### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I read over with the greatest attention the letter which gives so particular a description of the young lady's disorder, which I perfectly understood, and am sorry to say, it is a very dangerous disease and extremely difficult to cure. The articulation of the knee has been hurt in that place where the ligaments, the *Periosteum*, tendons and *Cryptae Haversianae* are most exposed; where they are greatly liable to injuries, which can scarce afterwards be re-

placed about the joints, is termed by the anatomists *Linimentum Haversianum*, in honour to Dr. *Havers* who wrote the best and most copiously on these glands.

paired

paired. For as all these parts are separated from one another by means of the *Membrana Cellulosa*, which likewise preserves them in an easy motion; if once this membrane should suppurate, it must create several sinuses, in which the matter being pent up, will always give rise to new disorders; and also when it is destroyed, the tendons, ligaments and the other membranes adhere together most closely and lose their motion: in which case the flexor muscles always are stronger than the extensors. The evil is still farther increased from the fungous Tumours which the sinuses bring on, which oppress and vitiate the parts about them. The joints being now become fixt, a farther condensation of the *Linimentum Haversianum*, is to be apprehended which can terminate in nothing but an incurable *Anchylosis*. Now therefore is the time to attempt the Cure, as it has not been of very long continuance, and the tender age of the patient gives hopes of recovering the flexibility of the limb: What I principally recommend is,

*First*, every morning and evening to rub the parts affected a good time but softly, with rough, warm dry cloths about the space of a quarter of an hour, taking care not to bring on an inflammation by too rough a friction; immediately after this, the thigh and leg being stretched as much

as

as they can bear, must be so placed above the steam of warm water as the vapour may circulate about the articulation of the knee, which must be kept in and directed towards it by waxed cloths wrap't round it. This must be continued for an half hour, taking care to keep the water so warm as the vapour may ascend. When this is over, the parts being dried are to have the extension and flexion performed as often and as much as they can safely admit of. Lastly they must be wrapt round with the plaster *A*, spread on leather, which must always remain on unless during this bathing of the leg morning and evening.

*Secondly*, Considerable advantage may be gained by applying the *Moffat-waters* in this manner.

*Thirdly*, It will be proper to make an instrument for gradually bringing the thigh and leg streight, and keeping them in that direction, which may easily be contrived; for otherwise if the leg is kept continually bended, the contraction will increase every day, and at last it will become quite rigid:

WHILE all this is a doing, it may likewise be proper to drink the juice of the plants *B*, which are the mildest in the class of antiscorbutics, if we can but prevail on the tender patient to use them.

THESE are the chief remedies I have to propose in this difficult case, which I recommend the more  
heartily



heartily as they are pretty much the same with what has been prudently and successfully used by the physicians employed. I pray god may bless them.

H. B.

A.

R. Emplast. de Melilot.

Mucilagin. ana unc. j.

Galban. levis. drach. v.

Ol. Infus. Castor. drach. j.

Mix all these well together to make a Plaster to be spread on leather.

B.

R. Recentifs. Agrimon.

Beton.

Chaerophyll.

Melissae

Veronic.

Virg. Aur.

Urticae ana q. s.

Let all these be cut very small, and infused, in the same manner as The; the patient ought to drink upon an empty stomach two ounces thrice a day.

## • • • LETTER XLII.

SIR,

I NOW consult you on the account of a very worthy widow lady, who is in her fortieth eighth year, and has hitherto enjoyed a tolerable good

good state of health, save that for some years past she has now and then been subject to an *Hysterical Colic*. The *menfes* have stopt for almost a Year past, and she has ever since been troubled with a *Fluor Albus*, attended with great weakness: A few months ago the lady was seized with a sharp periodical pain about the *os sacrum* and the right thigh, which continues as yet, and is attended with racking tortures in the hypogastric region like those of hard labour; she has likewise a bearing down of the *Uterus*. There is no external swelling, either on the thigh or belly, but she complains of a burning heat from the *Os Sacrum* to the *Os Pubis*. The *Uterus* upon examination was found hard and swelled, and during the paroxysm falls down into the *Pudendum* with a relaxation of the *Vulva*; when the pain ceases, the *Uterus* returns to its natural situation. The *Labia Pudendi* and the *nymphae* are excoriated, and there constantly dripps a sanious matter tinged with blood, but it has no bad smell. From the recited symptoms it will be hard to determine, whether it flows from the *Uterus* or *Vagina*. The lady is attacked twice a day, the pain coming about nine a clock in the morning, and at the same hour in the evening, and continuing about an hour; she takes *Opium* going

going to bed to assuage the pain; which when it comes in the morning, continues till noon.

I HAVE sent you, Sir, this case that I might have your opinion of it, and heartily wish it were my happiness to consult you personally, who had the honour of being formerly a Disciple of yours, and am at all times with the greatest esteem, sir, your most devoted, &c. &c.

Decemb. 29th 1735.

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BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

YOUR letter gave me a good deal of pleasure as I had thereby an opportunity of being informed of your health, your successful practice in medicine, and that I am sometimes in your thoughts.

I RED over the case with great attention, and am sorry to say that the worthy lady labours under a *Schirrus*, or perhaps *Cancer* of the *Uterus*. The original of the disorder, the place affected, symptoms, age, and the matter which comes off, do all but too much confirm my opinion. Hence the painful sensation so like a constant *tenesmus* and labour-pains, which detruces the uterus and produces the other symptoms.

I would



I would advise the use of the *Balneum-Semicupium*†; to cleanse and soften the parts and open the *lacunae* which are full of slimy mucus, and so expell it by means of emollients : and when the *Uterus* comes by this means to a better condition, then I think it will be proper to strengthen it by the vapour of the fumigation *A*, thrown on live coals, which will presently mount up in smoke: The lady may receive it in a proper manner by covering it with her petticoats. She must likewise once a week, in the morning fasting drink the Purgative draught *B*, and at five a clock in the afternoon take the gentle opiate *C*. The other days of the week, she may swallow thrice a day on an empty stomach, three of the pills *D*, drinking each time an ounce of the mixture *E*, cold.

## A.

R. *Mastich.**Oliban.**Styrac.**Calamit.**Succini* ana drach. v.

*Mix all these together, and beat them into a Powder for a Fumigation.*

† *i. e.* That she sit up to the waste in warm water, in which proper plants have been boiled.

## B.

R. *Lap. Cancr.* drach. ss.*Hæmatit.* gr. iij.*Rhei* gr. x.*Scammonei* gr. viij.*Stib. Diaphoret.* gr. xvj.*M. F. Pulv. tenuis.*

## C.

R. *Aq. Stillat. Cinnamon.* drach. j.*Aq. Meliss.* unc. j.*Tinct. Opj* gutt. x.*Spir. Nitri Dulc.* gutt. x.*Syr. Violar.* drach. ij.

## M.

## D.

R. *Gumm. Annon.* drach. ij.*Balsam. Peruv.* drach. ss.*Croci optimi* gr. xv.*Galban.* drach. ij.*Rhei* drach. j ss.*Succi Catechu diſſi* drach. ij.*Terebinth.* drach. ss.*M. F. Pil.* gr. iij.

## E.

R. *Aq. Stillat. Majoran.**Meliss.* ana unc. iv.*Spir. Matricalis,**Tinct. Succini* ana drach. jss.

## M.

L.E.T.

## LETTER XLIII.

THE gentleman who begs your advice, after riding two or three miles, was suddenly taken with a pain attended with a troublesome itching about the *Os sacrum*, and especially at the *glans penis*, which was succeeded with indeavours to make water: He then made water in great plenty, but some few minutes after had such another fit and could make none, being in extreme torture, which did not go off so long as he continued in motion. He has likewise often pissed clots of blood with his water, which made full two thirds of it, and of this bloody urine I saw him once make nigh a pint. His water was formerly filled with a red gritty sand.

## BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I Suspect a stone in the kidneys rather than in the bladder, although he feels pain in the *glans penis*: for the same symptoms are often produced from coagulated blood lodged in the bladder, when there is no stone there. The best remedy will be to take every two hours of the day half a drachm



drachm of the mass *A*, always drinking two ounces of the decoction *B*, after it, and this must be continued for the space of six weeks. The gentleman must at the same time abstain from every thing that is sour, heating, or that is apt to irritate and disturb; therefore he must endeavour to compose his mind as much as may be. If he carefully observes this course, there are great hopes of his receiving considerable benefit from it, which I pray god may grant.

## A.

*R. Balsam. Peruvian. drach. ss.*

*Cascar. drach. j.*

*Manna Purat unc. j.*

*Mastich.*

*Oliban. ana drach. ij.*

*Pulp. Cassia Recent. unc. ss.*

*Succi Glycyrrh. inspissat. drach. vj.*

*M. F. Massa bene permista.*

## B.

*R. Flor. Albeas p. iij.*

*Fol. Altheae. m. ss.*

*Parietar. m. ijs.*

*Rad. Glycyrrh. unc. jss.*

*Hyperici cum toto m. ij.*

Boil them in fountain water for half an hour; then strain off three pints, to which add one drachm of Sal. Prunell.

## LETTER. XLIV.

SIR,

I AM now past fifty, and have not had the benefit of Nature for these two last Years, which was always regular when I formerly enjoyed good Health, but on its stopping I felt a burning pain in the *Uterus*, which was succeeded by strangury and the piles. My limbs which are very much swelled are extremely hot and dry : I am always ill when a bed, and can seldom sleep above half an hour at a time. The pain I now complain of is not always the same, but I cannot say that I am ever one whole hour free from it. I have often taken advice, and had purges given me by order of the physician, and was likewise blooded (I am afraid) in too great a quantity, whence I am now threatened with a dropsy in my belly and limbs. As I have heard an extraordinary character of you, and of your uncommon skill in Physic, I was resolved to consult you myself by letter, and beg your advice in my unhappy condition.

*I am, Sir,*

*Your most humble, though unknown Servant.*

BOERHAAVE'S

## BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE carefully considered the disorder described in your letter, and am of opinion that an acrid and malignant blood infects the vessels which lye about the *Hypogastrium* and *Pelvis*, particularly those about the *Uterus*, bladder and Intestines: There is great danger of inveterate *Scurrous* tumors being thence produced, which bring on many other Evils. To prevent this, I would advise the lady as soon as she rises in the morning, to go into a bathing tub of warm water, where when she sits, the water must be as high as her belly; she must stay in half an hour, and then have all the parts she bathed well rubbed with warm dry flannel; this must be done in a good warm room before a fire or stove. In the mean time it will be extremely necessary to take those internal medicines which serve to blunt the acrimony of the humours, to resolve such as are viscid and thick, and remove obstructions.

THE Pills *A*, are very proper for this purpose, of which there are three to be taken every three hours of the day, beginning in the morning at seven a clock, and continuing to the same hour at night. She must always drink after each



dose three ounces of the decoction *B*. Your diet must be chiefly dry, or roast meats, biscuit and now and then a glass of Port-wine. I much recommend exercise.

THIS course must be continued six weeks at least, before we can expect to see it's good effects, which I heartily pray for.

A.

*R. Lap. Haemat. drach. j.*

*Mellib. drach. jss.*

*Opepanac. drach. j.*

*Rhei drach. jss.*

*Succi Glycerb. inspissat. drach. iij.*

*Terebinth. drach. ss.*

*M. F. Pil. gr. iij.*

B.

*R. Rad. slat. Bardan.*

*Chinas*

*Eryng.*

*Sarsaparill.*

*Scorzonerae ana unc. jss.*

These must be beat and cut small, and boiled in fresh water for the Space of an hour, then add root of fennel, Squorice, of each an ounce and an half. Boil them again for seven minutes and to four pints of the decoction add two drachms of *Sol. Polyebrest.*

LET-

## LETTER XLV.

**T**HE worthy lady who begs your advice, is now thirty years old; her mother and grandfather by the mothers side were of a scorbutic habit, but otherwise very healthy: she has very quick parts, and her nerves are extremely delicate and easily affected, whence she has the liveliest sensations of pain. She has suffered extremely from the scurvy, and the bad state of the liver. At the age of twelve she had the small pox of the confluent kind, which were so malignant that with the greatest difficulty she survived them, and after this was seized with a vomiting of bile, pains in the stomach, loss of appetite and indigestion, all which continued for some years. When she had in some measure got the better of these complaints, she was taken with a most inveterate scurvy, attended with a looseness of the teeth, rottenness and erosion of the gums, and very bad ulcers in the limbs: this could not be got thoroughly cured by the *Moffat* waters, nor the many antiscorbutics she tried. As the case appeared desperate, a salivation with mercury was proposed and tried, which succeeded; but a short time

time after, the *Scorbutic* and *Hepatic* symptoms appeared again.

In the year 1726, she was married, and some months after suffered abortion which very much weakened her; being again with child, she was obliged to keep her bed by reason of sharp pains in the *Uterus* and its ligaments, and with great difficulty retained her burthen: After delivery the disease appeared to have left the liver it's former seat, and was now placed in the *Uterus*. She could not quit her bed for several months after child-bearing, on account of the piercing pains in the *Uterus*, and a feeling of a dislocation (as she expressed herself) from weakness: she was now become extremely lean. There was by this time a tumor, in the left side of the *Uterus*, which could be felt in the *Vagina*; this at last disappeared after long using a decoction and pills. The weakness, pain and sense of dislocation remained a long time. She then used the hot baths, but had no benefit from them, however the long journey gradually dispelled those symptoms. In the year 1729, in the end of autumn the old disorder returned, and she had most racking pains in the stomach especially if she went seldom to stool. In the beginning of the winter, there appeared a tumor about the bigness of a goose-egg, on the right *Hypochondrium*, just where the liver covers the *Pylorus*,  
and



and could be distinctly felt. She sometime complained of a pain here, at other times of an heaviness and weight: She was likewise troubled with foul, *rancid belchings*, which she used to compare to the taste and smell of rotten substances. The pain continued for the most part fixed about the *Pylorus*, though it sometimes affected the shoulders, and all around the stomach: She always suffered on coughing or breathing hard. When she indeavoured to expand her chest and diaphragm downwards, her respiration was quite taken away: she had at this time very little fever, pain in the stomach or *nausea*. She then used decoctions, pills, &c. by the means of which not only the symptoms, but the tumor itself was considerably diminished. She bore up tolerably well next summer and autumn, which was in a great measure owing to the goodness of the season, the country air and exercise, and her drinking of goat-milk. She returned to town upon the approach of winter, when she was again threatned with all her old complaints, which however were prevented by the timely use of *Prophylactics*. In the month of *February* of this present year, she was attacked with the *Rheumatism*, which was then *epidemical* in this place, and the remains of it joined to the *Scurvy* (which I am afraid is the source of all her disorders) gave her the most racking pains in the limbs

limbs and hands, particularly about the knees and elbows. There then likewise appeared purple spots on her legs, which were attended with obstinate swellings raised like large knots, and that yielded to no other applications, save antiscorbutic fomentations. As she has not yet perfectly recovered her health, she thought proper to leave her own country for some time, and try the Spa waters and other proper means, and was indeed chiefly encouraged to this in hopes of relief from your advice. The *menfes* have all along been pretty regular. She has taken numberless medicines during the course of so many disorders, and they were generally such as have been recommended from your authority; *Attenuants, Resolvents, Evacuants, Corroborants, Antiscorbutics, Anti-idarics,\* Pills, Decoctions, Infusions, Julaps, Paultices, fomentations, Plaisters, Scuta*; the juices of different plants, goats-milk, our *Mosses* waters which are impregnated with a native *Sal Polycbreft*, the *Bath, Pyrmont* and *Spa* waters which were sent for here, and an infinite number of different prescriptions which it is needless to mention particularly. I must however, *Sir*, beg you'll allow me to point out a few of those which often recovered her when she was reduced quite low. She used to take twice or thrice a day some large

\* Such as are good against the jaundice.

Pills made up of *Venice Soap*, *Myrrh*, *Opopanax*, *Balsam of Peru*, powder of *Rhubarb* and *Amber*, to which were added some drops of the chemical oils of *Mint* and *Cinnamon*, and likewise *Aloes* when our intentions were to cleanse and deterge thoroughly. She drank a *Decoction* of the *Woods*, in which were infused, wild *Carrot seed*, *Mint*, the best *Saffron*, and to all were added *Spanish wine*, and the juice of *Millepedes*. The *Tincture* of *Ipecacuana* agrees extremely well with her by way of vomit. *Elixir proprietatis* prepared with vinegar with double the quantity of syrup of *Buckthorn*, makes her common purging draught.

Our intentions were, gently to dissolve and attenuate what might be obstructed,—to draw it off when resolved—to open the urinary vessels, and pores of the skin—and lastly to sustain and support the *vital forces*.

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#### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

THE disease chiefly proceeds from a thin, scorbutic acrimony of the blood, which occasions so sharp pains in the bones and *Viscera*; to this we must add the tender and delicate constitution of a body so easily moved, the prevalence of the *Bile* and something of the nature of *Arbitric*



*Artbritic* complaints which are mixed with the former: Hence the disorder must be very complex, dangerous and such as requires the greatest prudence in the physician, who has the care of the lady.

1<sup>st</sup>, A free, open country air is what will agree with her—but too hot is to be avoided.

2<sup>dly</sup>, The properest food is, all kind of kitchen herbs, ripe summer fruits, fresh flesh, bread and milk; for drink I recommend *Spa-water* mixed with equal quantity of milk.

3<sup>dly</sup>, SHE ought to take pretty constant exercise, but then it must be moderate and gentle.

4<sup>thly</sup>, SHE ought to indulge in sleeping.

5<sup>thly</sup>, Bath her limbs in water every day.

6<sup>thly</sup>, LET her drink every three hours of the day one ounce of the juices *A*, and sometimes five times a day.

7<sup>thly</sup>, WHEN she goes to bed, she may drink one ounce of the mixture *B*.

H. B.

*R. Acetor. m. j.*

*Beraburg. m. iij.*

*Chasrophyll. m. j.*

*Cocblear. m. ss.*

Wash all these clean, and after beating them small, extract their juice, of which there must be six ounces ready every morning, to be mixed at drinking, in a convenient quantity of whey.

B.

B.

R. *Aq. Stillat. Cortic. Aurant.**Cinnamom.**Citrear.**Melissae ana unc. j.**Mixtae Cydoniorum unc. jls.**Spir. Embryonis drach. jv.**Syrup. Violar. drach. vj.**Tinct. Succini gutt. x.*

M.

## LETTER XLVI.

**A**LADY past sixty, who formerly enjoyed good health, and never had any gravelish complaints, has been subject for these ten years past to a *Dysury*\*, which has gradually increased, with a most sharp pain at the end of making water. This disorder often returns, and after pretty long periods, so that the patient has frequently been free from it, for some months together; but at last besides the *Dysury*, there came on bloody urine, especially after walking or using exercise. All the other symptoms then increased, of which a *tensismus*, or an ineffectual inclination to go to stool immediately on making water,

\* A *Dysury* is a difficulty, attended with pain, in making water.

gives her a great deal of uneasiness. The intervals of health she now enjoys are but short, and her complaint returns on every slight occasion. The lady begs, that you'll write particularly what medicines may be proper to alleviate at least her pain, and what diet she ought to observe.

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#### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

FROM the careful consideration of the case, I think it is plain, that there is lodged a sharp stone in the kidneys, which by motion or pressure makes the vessels bleed and irritates the nerves at the head of the ureters, and thus by the extension of these to the bladder, affects and torments those parts.

THE patient must avoid all acrid things, and whatever is apt to overload the body or stimulate the juices; she must eat soft and cooling food, and that in very small quantities at a time; for her common drink, fresh whey with a little honey in it, is by much the best: all farinous substances, vegetables, soft pot herbs, ripe summer fruits, broth, fresh flesh, eggs and milk are proper in this case.

FOR medicines, I recommend the *mass* 4, of which she is to take every morning at 7, 8, 9 and



and 10 a clock half a drachm on an empty stomach, and always drink after it three ounces of the decoction B, warm. — This course must be exactly kept to for the space of six weeks, to make a trial, if the stone (which I suspect is the cause of all the disorders) can by this method be diminished, or possibly brought away in the easiest manner for the patient; this I heartily pray god may grant.

H. B.

A.

R. *Croci Optim.* gr. xv.*Carum.* drach. ss.*Manna* drach. x.*Pap. Cass.* drach. vj.*Rhei* drach. j.*Succi Glycyrrh. inspissat.* drach. vj.*Cerebintb.* drach. j.

M. F. Massa.

B.

R. *Flor. Rec. Altheæ**Sambuc. ana* unc. ss.*Fol. rec. Alb. Pariet. Scabios. ana* m. j.*Rad. Rec. Gramin. ana* unc. ij.

Boil these in water for half an hour—Then add fresh liquorice root an ounce, anised beaten six drachms.—Let them all boil again a short while, —Draw off four pints of the Decoction.

LET-

## LETTER XLVII.

A Young lady of nine years, whose father in his youth was troubled with scrophulous tumors, has been much subject to an itching and cutaneous eruptions from the sixth to the eighth year of her age. She obtained some small relief from the medicines she then took; but as these eruptions went off, there appeared soft, pale tumors on her neck, face, and about those places where the glands lye: They brought on a weakness and sort of inactivity over all the body. She now very seldom stirs from home; lives mostly on *Tbè* and farinous substances; is troubled in the morning and evening with a great heat, equall to 96 deg. and sometimes an 100. She has very little stomach, and her urine is pale, watry and in very small quantity.

## BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE carefully considered the accurate description of the young lady's disorder, and am of opinion that it is chiefly owing to that bad state of the juices which inclines to a *visciditè* and *coagulation*, particularly in the small vessels and

and glands; this is pretty plain from the eruptions that first appeared on the skin, which were succeeded by those soft tumors, and now probably the internal parts are attacked with the same.

WHAT will be of greatest service in this case, is to have the whole body well rubbed over every day, and that for a good time, and as roughly as she can well endure. She must likewise take daily exercise before meals, when her stomach is empty, and continue it till she finds a gentle sweat coming on. She must go to bed at nine, and rather indulge in sleeping. The bed must be very dry, and her room look towards the south. Her food must consist of such things as gently attenuate, and are of an easy digestion; all sorts of grain, farinuous substances well fermented; biscuit, soft pot-herbs, succory, red cabbage, beat, spinach, fresh flesh, either roasted or boiled with proper kitchen-stuff. For drinking I recommend *Mead* mixed with water, and one fourth of sweet white-wine. She must take every three hours of the day, three of the pills *A*, always drinking after them three ounces of the decoction *B*.

If the young lady can be prevailed with to follow this course exactly, I doubt not of her receiving

P



ing great benefit from it, under the care of so skilful a physician as now attends her. This I heartily pray god may grant.

Leyden, 17<sup>th</sup> 37 H. B.

## A.

R. Gumm. Ammon. drach. j.

Bulb. Ari recent. drach. jss.

Croci gr. xij.

Galban.

Myrrhas ana drach. jss.

Sap. Venet. drach. iij.

Terebinth. drach. ss.

M. F. Pil. gr. iij.

## B.

Take of the aperient roots, of each two ounces, and after cutting and beating them small boil them in water for an half hour. Then add salt of wormwood one drachm. 1v lesser hot seeds, of each two drachms. Let them all boil again for a short space and draw off four pints of the Decoction.

## LETTER XLVIII.

THE lady who begs your advice is aged forty three, of a thin habit of body, has had a great deal of exercise in her own house, and always enjoyed a good state of health, till about five years ago when she was seized with a violent continual fever; she was then big with child and the fever

fever was treated according to the hot regimen, of which however after sometime she recovered. She had a very difficult labour, during which she was seized with a most racking pain on the right side of the belly, near the *Os Illium*, which immediately ceased after the birth. Two days after she had a total suppression of urine, after which she was again attacked with a *continual fever*, though not so severe as the former. From this time she felt her belly to swell, and that so like to pregnancy, that the most skilful men-midwives declared her to be with child: But as length of time proved this false, she went to the country by the advice of her physicians, and lived on a milk diet. The swelling however increased every day, and the disorder grew worse. The whole *Abdomen* is now swelled to a surprizing degree, and that equally on all sides, and we can feel an hardness under the lower ribs. She begs, Sir, your best advice in the most earnest manner,

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BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

**A**FTER carefully considering all the circumstances of the case, I am of opinion that the lady labours under a two-fold disorder; in the *Abdomen*, *omensum*, or lower margin of the liver, there is a *scirrhus* hardness: and besides there ap-

pears to be a collection of water in the bladder. Both these are very dangerous and difficult of cure, particularly in one of her age, and who has bore so many children \*.

WITH regard to the cure, we must endeavour to support her natural strength, to resolve the matter, and then draw it off, principally by stool. This is to be attempted, by a long continued *friction* of the belly before the fire, and that as strong as she can well indure; this *friction* must be assisted with anointing it; and she must continue the daily use of the medicines hereafter prescribed, with this caution, that the time be carefully observed when the resolved matter begins to be in motion; this may be learned from the sickness in the stomach, vomiting, gripes, flux, and the general disorder she'll feel in her body; then it will be proper to desist from giving medicines, till these symptoms are alleviated, when the same method must be again pursued.

I heartily pray, that god may grant a perfect recovery of her health through these means.

Leyden 17<sup>th</sup> 36. H. B.

\* This circumstance is not mentioned in the letter, but was told to the doctor on reading it.



## A.

R. Ol. Stillat. Juniper. gutt. vj.

Pil. Rusi drach. ij.

Sal. Polychrest.

Tartar. Vitriolat. ana drach. ss.

Tersbintbinas g. vj.

M. F. Pil. gr. v.

Let the lady take three of these pills, at 7, 8 a clock, and half an hour before 9, drinking after each dose a Thé cup full of the following mixture.

## B.

R. Aq. Stillat. Junip. lb. j.

Rob. Junip. unc. iij.

Spir. Junip. unc. ij.

Tinct. Myrrhas unc. jss.

## M.

## C.

R. Vnguent. Artbanis.

Martial.

Nervin. ana unc. ss.

Mix all these together into a liniment, with which the belly is to be anointed twice a day before the fire, and after covered with a soft skin.

## LETTER XLIX.

A YOUNG gentleman of 23 years, in the month of *August* last year, being very much heated, drank off at once a pot of small beer, and two or three days after was seized with a general disorder over all his body, a great lowness of spirits, and a constant swimming in his head; he complained likewise of a sickness in his stomach, attended with a belching of wind, which continues generally for 12 hours: there is also a visible swelling in his stomach. The gentleman consulted a physician, who taking the case to be *Hysteric*, ordered him a vomit and *Hysteric* drops. The sickness he thought was rather diminished, but the belchings, and lowness of spirits still remain. He is very costive, naturally of a fair florid complexion, but at present somewhat emaciated. He formerly enjoyed very good health, but his present disorder quite unfits him for business, or company. We earnestly beg, sir, you'll send your prescriptions, and let us know what regimen you would advise the gentleman to follow.

BOERHAAVE'S

## BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

THE gentleman's taking so large a draught of cold liquor when overheated, caused a sudden cold, and hence a coagulation of the blood in the large vessels nigh the heart; the *Viscera* have from the same cause been disturbed in their functions and obstructed, whence proceed all the other disorders, which are not to be cured without great difficulty.

HE must betake himself to a very soft diet, broths, mild pot-herbs, ripe summer fruits, mealy farinous substances, small beer. He should likewise have his belly well rubbed every morning with rough, dry, warm cloths. Exercise, particularly walking and riding, is extremely proper; the more of it he takes, the better.

He ought to indulge in sleeping. In the mean time he must take such medicines as gently *resolve* and *attenuate*, but do not too much move the blood and juices. For this purpose I recommend the pills *A*, three of which are to be taken on an empty stomach every day, an hour before breakfast, dinner and supper, always drinking after



them four ounces of the decoction *B*. This course must be continued for six weeks, in hopes of relief, which I heartily wish.

*Leyden 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ 36. H. B.*

*A.*

*R. Borac. drach. j.*

*Croci gr. vj.*

*Curcuma drac. j.*

*Rhei drach. jfs.*

*Sap. Ven. drach. v.*

*Terebinth. gr. xij.*

*M. F. Pil. gr. iij.*

*B.*

*R. Rad. Anonid.*

*Bardan.*

*Eryngii.*

*Foenic.*

*Gramin. ana. unc. ij.*

*Sal. Absinth. drach. j.*

*Boil all these half an hour in water, and to four pints of the decoction add of the syrup of the aperient roots, of each two ounces.*

## LETTER L.

*SIR,*

**Y**OUR opinion with regard to the following case is earnestly desired.—I shall give you as full a description of it as possible, from the circumstances related to me,

A tender

A tender young lady of twenty, fell from her horse, on the left temporal bone, which caused a considerable contusion, attended with a sharp and constant pain, but there was no wound. Some days after a physician was sent for, who caused a vein to be opened, ordered a vomit and purge, with a blister for the crown of her head, and cupping-glasses to be applied to her shoulders. The pain however did not in the least remit. Three months after another physician ordered the part to be fomented and anointed, but without any relief to the lady. Cupping was again tryed, which removed the pain for three or four months. She afterwards got a cold attended with a cough, which brought back the pain to its former place.

SHE drank the *Bath* waters and took gum-mous pills, which gave relief for a time, and the pain which constantly returned on catching cold, was removed for a few weeks by cupping.

IN *May* last the hot bath was pumped on the part, after covering it with sponge, which very much increased the pain; but bleeding in the *jugular* and *Saphaena* veins with the use of the pills, gave her ease for five months. The pain returned with the winter, and has been so severe ever since, that the poor lady seldom sleeps, save when *Opiates* procure it. She likewise tried a sneezing powder in which  
there

there was *Mercury*, and had from thence a plentiful discharge of *Saliva*, but without any relief. If she lyes on the temple affected, the pain always increases; there is no sign of an inflammation, nor does the pain vary any how from the touch or pressure. It is confined to the part where the *coronal suture* ends and extends quite to the ear, whence I should imagine the cause to be somewhere in the nervous membranes which cover the *Sutures*; but submit this to your better judgment.

I ever am, sir, with the greatest regard, your most &c. &c.

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#### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

AFTER considering the case, I am afraid, that the fall has pushed the *Vitreous Table* of the skull inwards, in that part where the violence of the shock was received. Hence this acute fixed inward pain will not be worse from an outward pressure, but must very much increase from every cause that forces the contents of the skull on this sharp eminence. If this is so, it is no wonder that the best Remedies have hitherto proved ineffectual in this case, which is only to be relieved by making revulsions from the brain. I can hardly then find any other method of cure, than that of making evacuations from the head downwards



downwards, and preventing all violent motions there. The bringing of the *Piles* might probably answer this purpose. The lady must bath her legs every night, and afterwards have them well dryed and rubbed. Let her put to her soles the plaisters *A*, which she must always keep on save during the time she is bathing. Let her likewise take every morning fasting three of the pills *B*, and once a day use the suppository *C*, dipt in oil. All these must be continued for a month at least, in hopes of relief, which I pray god may grant.

I observe with pleasure that I am sometimes in your thoughts.

Farewell,

H. B.

A.

R. Emplast. Oxyroc.

Galban. ana q. s.

Spread these on, leather for plaisters to the soles of the feet.

B.

R. Boracis drach. j.

Aloes puriss. drach. jss.

Myrsicæ drach. j.

Terebinth. gr. xv.

M. F. pil. gr. iij.

C.

C.

R. Aloes drach. j.

Mell. ad crassitiem costi drach. iij.

Sap. Venet. drach. ij.

M. F. f. a Suppositoria gr. vj.

## LETTER LI.

S I R,

YOUR advice is begged in the case of a worthy lady, of a good habit of body, tall of stature, and of an excellent temperament, who has been remarkable for sobriety and every other virtue, all her life. She has had children and once twins, but always enjoyed very good health, unless she was costive, when the *Foeces* were hard and round. Tho' this is no uncommon complaint, yet she had thence almost fallen into the *Iliac Passion* \* once or twice, if proper purgatives had not been administred.

IN the beginning of the present year, this most worthy lady who was then in her 63d year, began to feel a distention and fulness in the lower belly, and first observed at this time that her wa-

\* *Iliac Passion* is, when the excrements are obstructed in their passage downwards and afterwards ejected through the mouth.

ter was considerably diminished; but that she might not give uneasiness to her friends she concealed it, and in the end of *March* went on horseback a journey of forty miles in two days, and five days after made another though shorter one: the disorder had now so much increased, that her husband discovered it in the night from her heavy groans. She then complained of a most violent pain on the right side of her belly, from the short ribs to the *Os Innomatum* of that side: This grew worse after she was a bed, and was so severe about the *Os Ilium*, that she could not indure the gentlest touch. The *Abdomen* was now swelled, and she made water in a very small quantity, which was likewise thick, and had a sediment in it like brickduft. Her pulse was low and unequal, and she was seized with great lowness of spirits. All these symptoms continued for three or four days, when in the month of *April* she returned to her own house, and a few days after was again attacked with them, now much increased; she likewise was troubled with squeamishness and inclination to vomit, heart-burn, and loss of appetite.

ON the 26th of *April* she had such another, but much severer attack; at this time her spirits were sunk to the last degree, and seemed quite extinguished; the pain and *nausea* likewise increased,  
and



and what is very remarkable, the pain for some time quitted her left side and fell into the right thigh, but soon after returned to its former place.

The medicines she took in this last stage of the disease, were as follows; first a gentle emetic, and then two doses alternately of the tincture of *Hiera Picra* with *Rhubarb*, in a solution of venice soap and tincture of Saffron. She then found herself better, on which the physicians ordered her the *Saponaceous* Pills, and a medicated wine.

THIS is an account of all the former symptoms; her present condition, is as follows. Her body is ematiated to the last degree, and though she is naturally lean, yet she now seems to be the *Skeleton* of what she formerly was. The *Abdomen* is much swelled, and contains at least six or eight pints of water, which falls down to that side on which she lyes; it is very easy to perceive from the touch that there is a considerable collection of *Serum*. She can scarce ever lye on her right side, nor indure the smallest touch on that part of the lower belly next to the *Os Ilium*. Her feet swell in the evening, and she has no appetite or digestion. She sleeps very little and is always costive, except when she takes some purgative, such as the tincture of *Hiera Picra* with *Rhubarb*, which always operates, unless she has a fit of her illness,

illness, and then no *Cathartics* whatever have any effect. This last circumstance made the physicians suspect some concretion in the intestines, especially as she had formerly from her costiveness been threatened with the *Iliac Passion*. They likewise fear lest the right *Ovarium*, or perhaps the *Uterus* should be affected (and that from the pain in the neighbouring parts) but of all this they beg your opinion; and if you think (which they likewise suspect) that the lymphatic system is affected.

I need only add, that upon the strictest examination, the *Liver* appears every way sound; she has neither fever nor thirst at this time. Her urine comes away in pretty large quantities, and is of a straw-colour with a light branny sediment in it.—The physicians who now attend her have agreed to treat her in the following Manner, till such time as they receive your Advice.

1<sup>st</sup>, She is to chew every night fifteen grains of the best *Rhubarb*, at different times.

2<sup>d</sup>, Every morning and afternoon to take Pills made of *Venice Soap*, *Nutmeg*, and lesser *Cardamom Seed*, with a bitter diuretic Wine.

3<sup>d</sup>ly, Every other morning to take of the tincture of *Hiera Picra* with *Rhubarb*, so as to have two or three stools.

4thly, They have recommended frictions and riding on horseback or in a chaise.

THE lady thinks herself a dying, particularly as her father ended his days by an *Ascites*.

### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE carefully perused the description of the grievous disorder the worthy lady labours under, and observed with great concern, that the excellent means hitherto tryed have proved ineffectual; as I am a stranger and at a distance, I can hardly expect to prescribe better, but as you are pleased to lay your commands on me, I shall give you my opinion.——The original cause of the complaints, must be, I suspect, in the *Cœcum* and *Colon*, where proceeding from the *Ilium* on the right side, they have bore the weight of the hard *Fœces*, which with great stress they have been able to raise upwards. Is there not here then something of a *Scirrhus* nature, now growing malignant, from their constant action, and the attrition they have suffered?—The nature of the symptoms and different appearances of the disease, seem to agree tolerably well with this account. I remember to have seen some patients



lients troubled with such complaints in that part, who were naturally costive, had hard *Faeces* or through a bad custom went seldom to stool. In this case also, I have often observed the *Kidneys* obstructed, and from thence a collection of watry *Serum* in the belly. The physicians who are present will be able to determine if this is the case, or if it be otherwise. In the mean time the advanced age of the patient, nature, and the disease itself, which so much prevails and is on the increasing hand, are all strong motives for using our indeavours, to find out a speedy, safe and effectual remedy.

It should, I think, be proposed, if it would not be proper to use for common drink, fresh whey boiled with honey to sweeten it, that by this means the *Viscera* might gradually be softened, and the hard excrements dissolved? For food, all those Pot-herbs which gently loosen the belly seem to be here indicated; such as *Beet*, *Succory*, *Endive*, *Lettice* boiled in broth with fresh butter; all ripe summer fruits, fresh cream to be taken often but in small quantities at a time. Fresh flesh likewise is proper, especially boiled, and all sorts of river fish dressed in the same way. I would advise also, to inject clysters of the decoction of marsh mallows and honey, of six ounces each, every day,

Q

which

which are to be retained by the patient as long as she can conveniently.

THREE of the pills *A*, may be taken every three hours of the day, drinking each time after them two ounces of the juice *B*. She may begin at seven a clock in the morning and continue to seven at night.—If by this method we gain so much that she can indure to be touched, then the belly and especially the place affected must be gently rubbed over, every morning and evening, with rough, dry, warm cloths:—This is to be done when the stomach is empty, and to be continued a good time, increasing and diminishing the *Friction* as the pain allows.—While all this is a doing, I think a little soft generous wine, such as *Canary*, *Spanish* or *Madera* should frequently be indulged the patient, to sustain and strengthen her natural force.

I heartily pray, that this course, or some better one from a more able physician, may restore the most worthy lady.

A.

## A.

R. Gum. Ammon. drach. ij.  
 Salis Polychrest. drach. j.  
 Sap. Ven. drach. iij.  
 Succ. Insuffat. Glycerb. drach. ij.  
 Tartar. Vitriolat.  
 Terabintb. ana drach. ss.  
 M. F. Pil. gr. jv.

## B.

R. Baccaburg.  
 Chaerophyll.  
 Endivias  
 Fumarias  
 Graminis  
 Nasturtii Aquatic. omnium recentiss. ana unc. jv.

All these must be cut small and beaten to the consistence of a poultice. Then strain off the juice in a press through a piece of canvas, to which there may be added so much whey, as to make nigh a pint in all of the mixture, for daily use.

## LETTER LII.

SIR,

THE worthy lady, who now applies for your advice, is aged 54 or thereabouts, of a lean habit of body, very weak and sickly. She has for these last fifteen years been troubled with hysteric complaints, an *Asthma*, catarrhus cough on catching the least cold, and a tedious expectoration of a tough humour, which sometimes ap-



peared raw, and at other times concocted, she likewise had several fits of an hectic fever which returns on every slight occasion; she labours under loss of appetite and other symptoms which threaten a Consumption, and she is naturally constive and keeps constantly at home, nor can she be prevailed with to ride abroad in the open air, which has been much recommended to her.

To procure some relief from these forementioned symptoms, I ordered her gentle *Cathartics* every third or fourth month as there was occasion, and now and then emptied her stomach with a few grains of *Ipecacuana* in an infusion of camomile Thé; I likewise prescribed Dr. Morton's *Balsamic Pills*, which he recommends in a scrophulous consumption, drinking after them a glass of *Bristol Water*. When the hectic fever was increased, I gave her of the *Tincture of the Bark*, in a decoction of pectoral plants, in place of the *Bristol Waters*. For the asthma and cough when they proved severe, and her want of rest which then followed, I sometimes ordered a vein to be opened with proper cautions, or gave her a gentle cordial, as I saw proper, to be taken at nine a clock in the evening. I likewise ordered her a milk diet, especially in the spring, and desired her to eat of flesh very sparingly, but never at night. I recommended riding on horseback or in a chaise,

in the open country air; to keep her mind composed and not to engage herself too closely with the affairs of her family; nor were *Frictions* of the joints and extremities neglected, and bathing her legs at night; for drink, at meals, when she eat flesh, I allowed her a glass of old claret mixed with *Bristol* water; and for her ordinary drinking at other times, she had emulsions of almonds, barley water, pectoral pitans, milk with *Bristol* water, whey and the like. For her cough, I ordered the balsamic troches in *Quincey's* dispensatory, with some pectoral decoction to be taken after them for variety sake. — In this difficult and chronical case, I thought the great doctor *Boerhaave's* advise absolutely necessary, by which I am persuaded, though the disorder may not be compleatly cured, yet the symptoms will be mitigated, and the lady's life by that means not only lengthened, but rendered also much more agreeable.

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#### BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE considered the elegant and comprehensive description of the disorder,—and from a pure regard to truth, am obliged to declare, “ that the physician employed has shown so much

Q 3

“ skill

“ skill both in judging of the distemper and in  
“ treating it, that I have not the least amend-  
“ ment to make, and but very little by way of  
“ addition :” I intirely approve of what has been  
done, and recommend to the lady what was fur-  
ther proposed, — I should not write one word  
more, if it was not so earnestly begged of me.  
I hope the following course might prove of ser-  
vice, if the lady will be so good as make tryal  
of it.

LET her every morning two hours before she  
rises, drink four ounces of milk mixed with six  
ounces of the *Spa* water from the well *Pouhon*;  
let her take the same at six a clock in the even-  
ing and continue it for a month : she may drink it  
warm or cold, as she likes best.

WHEN this is first observed, she is next to  
take every three hours of the day, three of the  
pills *A*, always drinking after them three ounces  
of the infusion *B*, and to continue this last course  
for two months more. With regard to her diet,  
I recommend the same as her physician has done.  
I heartily wish the same success may attend this  
course, after using it for three months, as I have  
known in a like case.

H. B.

A.



## A.

R. Gum. Ammon. drach. ij.  
 Balsam. Peruv. gutt. vj.  
 Croci gr. x.  
 Sapon. Venet. drach. jv.  
 Sacci Liquoris. inspissat. drach. fs.  
 Terebinth. drach. fs.  
 M. F. Pil. gr. iij.

## E.

R. Recentiss. Agrimon.  
 Betonic.  
 Chasrophyll.  
 Foenicul.  
 Hyssop.  
 Haederas Terrestr. ana M.  $\frac{1}{2}$

Cut all these small and put them in boiling water like Tol.  
 There must be xv ounces prepared for daily use.

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End of the First Volume.

ADVER.

ADVERTISEMENT.

**T**HE two following cases were treated by  
Doctor Boerhaave in the hospital at Ley-  
den, and as they belong to the class of chronic  
diseases, are added to this collection.



CASE

(1)  
CASE I.

A CACHEXY.

Saturday, September 21, 1737.

GENTLEMEN,

YOU see this patient who is now aged 66 years, and labours under a *Cachexy*, or ill habit of body.

IN the first part of his life \* he served as a common soldier in the troops, and afterwards gained his living by spinning of wool. He has been attacked with acute distempers, and had formerly a tertian ague which was then epidemical, and afterwards fell into a *Catocbymie* which brought on that species of dropsy called *Leucophlegmatia*: Of all these complaints however he got pretty well recovered. His temperament for a man is but weak, inclining to the *Atra-*

\* These histories are an abridgement of the public lectures the doctor gave in the hospital to the students, after examining the patient and inquiring into the symptoms of the disorder.

*biliarian*;



*biliarian* ; this feebleness has been much increased from age and his former dropfy ; his strength however is not as yet intirely decayed. The present situation of his body is accounted a bad sign, for lying on the back denotes a weakness. His appetite is extremely little, and the fibres of the stomach and intestines so very weak, that all the food he takes passes through him unchanged, in the same manner as in a *Lientery*\*. He has a great drought, and no sooner drinks than it passes quickly through the intestine. Hence we may learn the reason, why the dropfy is not increased, nor any considerable swelling in his belly. The organs for preparing the *Chyle* and *Bile* are weakened ; hence the *Bile* itself is not sufficiently strong, and the fibres are relaxed. His pulse is very low, but pretty equal. He breaths freely, and when he sleeps, it is not attended with any noise or snoring. His tongue is very smooth ; no bad taste in the mouth, and a pretty moderate heat even down to the extremities. The *Foeces Alvi* smell. His urine is not high coloured nor rank ; when shaken, like a *Sapanaceous* mixture, it keeps the froth. There is nothing swimming in it, nor has it a bad smell.

\* *Lientery* is a flux, wherein the aliment is discharged crude and indigested.

WHAT



WHAT he has brought up by spitting, has likewise no offensive smell; there is no *Pus* nor *bilious* matter in it, but is white, thick and insipid. Hence it is plain, that this spittle is a meer collection from his weak lungs, which have been much fatigued to bring this matter up, and are now unable to throw it off, whence it gathers here, and becomes more digested and thick, till at last he is so much oppressed with it, that he employs the strength of all the *Thorax* to get rid of it. The animal functions are in a pretty good state, except that he is slow and unable for muscular motion.

THUS, gentlemen, I have given you, what is sufficient for forming the indications. For eating; biscuit, fresh flesh roasted and well seasoned, are proper; and now and then a glass of wine. But in place of these, all dry mealy grains, boiled barley, &c. serve the poorer sort. The best drink in this case is *Brunswick Mum*, and were our Patient in easy circumstances, a rough *Grecian* Wine and marmalade of quinces might be given to great advantage. The stimulating class of medicines is likewise indicated, such as spices, &c. The cure then ought to be attempted, first by a gentle purge, and then the cough must be allayed by opiates, and lastly, the solids must be strengthened  
and

and the humours corrected; all which we will endeavour to do by the following remedies.

### The P U R G E .

R. Rhei gr. xl.

Scammon. gr. iv.

Lap. Cancror. scrup. i.

Syrup. Rosar. Solutiv. drach ij.

Conditis accuratissime admisce

Aque stillat. Sambuc. unc. i. fs.

Mix all these together for a purgation draught, to be taken at six a clock to morrow morning.

### The PAREGORICK DRAUGHT.

R. Aq. stillat. Cortic. Antrant.

Meliss. ana unc. j.

Aq. stomach. drach. fs.

Opil paris. gr. j.

Mix all these carefully together and let it be taken at once, ten hours after the purging draught.

### The CORDIAL, STOMACHICK WINE.

R. Cortic. Cinnamon. unc. fs.

Winteran. drach. ij.

Radic. Helenij

Imperator, ana drach. vj.

Semin. Angelic.

Cardamom. Min. ana drach. v.

With these ingredients and three pints of white French wine, let there be prepared S. A. a medicinal wine. The patient is to drink of it on Monday, one ounce four times a day.

Wednesday,



## A C A C H E X Y.

5

*Wednesday, March 25.* You perceive, gentlemen, a change in the symptoms much to the better; he has now acquired more strength, his tongue has a better colour and is become moist. He sleeps better, and is not so much disturbed by the cough. His appetite is likewise somewhat mended; the water he now makes, keeps the froth less than formerly, though still it be faulty in this respect. The *Phlegm* which at last visit, was white, thick and insipid, is now become thinner and more fluid. The cough proceeds from a thick matter flowing from the *Lungs*, which are very weak. He has a pretty equal heat over all the body. The flux or *Lientery* still remains, for which we must use warm and narcotic draughts. His stomach is extremely weak; so we will order a plaster for it. With regard to the diet, the indications are the same as formerly.

Take plaster of *Gypsum*, what suffices. Spread it on leather for a stomach-plaster, and let it be immediately applied.

R. *Aq. stillat. Fenicul.*

*Menthar ana unc. ij.*

*Syr. Pap. alb. unc. j.*

*Opil puri gr. iij.*

Mix all these together. He is to take his fourth part of it every morning, at seven a Clock.

*September,*

## 6 A C A C H E X Y.

September 28th. THIS patient is fatigued with the smallest motion, and lies as if he were dead. The two chief symptoms we remarked last time, were the weakness which still remained and the *Lientery*. The solids therefore were to be restored to their tone as much as possible, and the Juices defended from putrefaction. He took the remedies then prescribed, but was worse afterwards, and the day before yesterday was so low that he seemed to be nigh his end. I ordered some such thing as follows, viz.

R. *Aq. fillat. Mentb. unc. v.*

*Lapid. Cancror. drach. iij.*

*Laudan. puri gr. iij.*

*Mix altogether, and let him take one spoonful every two hours.*

My design in this was in some measure to stop the flux. He has had no stool these last thirty hours. He has now a little recovered his strength, but brought up again his last medicines. The *Diagnosis* remains the same, except that there now appears to be an extreme relaxation in the intestines. He found himself better after taking the *Opiate*, but now complains of a *Vertigo* which symptom proceeds from the *Opium*, and can scarcely be prevented.

# A C A C H E X Y.

7

R. Ol. Stillat. Cortic. Aurant, gtt. vi.

Sacchar. drach. ss.

M. f. s. a Elaeo saccharum, cui admisce

Massibes, Tburis ana drach. j.

Succi Acacie inspissat. drach. iij.

Tartar. puriss. drach. j.

Conserv. Rosar. rub. unc. ss.

Syrup. Myrtin. q. s.

Mix all these together into an electuary, of which he is to take half a drachm every three hours, with one spoonful of the following mixture.

R. Aq. stillat. Fennicul. unc. v.

Opii puri gr. iij.

Mix them together, for a vehicle.

October, 2. We found at last visit, this patient's stomach so weak, that it could not bear the force of the medicines then prescribed, for he had no sooner taken them, than he vomited them all up. This symptom still continues, his pulse is at present very low; the flux is diminished. I am of opinion that we must keep by the first *Diagnosis*, and may try if a little wine and aromatics will not do service. We shall therefore take our *Stomachic Water*.

R. Aq.



R. *Aq. Stomach.*

*Spir. Matricar. Burrbi ana unc. ss.*

Mix them together: and let him take thirty drops four times a day, in an ounce of white French wine.

This is a very grateful mixture, and at the same time strengthening.

October, 5.

WE mentioned last time, that this patient had vomited up all he had taken; thence we inferred the great decay of his natural strength, and the fear of giving way under the *Atrophy* peculiar to old age. The pulse is still so low, as hardly to be felt; hence it is plain that the juices are not recruited by any thing he eats or drinks, so as to fill the vessels. The cough is rather increased and freer; the *Lientery* and vomiting are diminished; his strength is very much spent. We shall continue the last prescriptions and stomachic plaster. When the cold weather comes on, his weakness will then very much increase, the flux likewise grow worse, and so he will make his *exit*.—This was my opinion from the beginning.

October 9.

The natural functions are at this time in a much better condition than formerly, and his stomach can now bear, and in some measure digest what it receives. He has only had two stools these last twenty four hours, which

which is a sure sign that his stomach and intestines have recovered a little more strength. His muscular motion is somewhat brisker, and he breathes easily. The cough likewise is freer and without stress, which formerly was very weakning. There is an equal heat over all the body, quite down to the feet. The pulse is at present so low, that ye ought to feel it; this signifies the small quantity of blood in the vessels, and a proportionable strength, for there is hardly enough to raise the arteries. Hence the same *Diagnosis* still takes place, viz. that the vital force is not sufficiently recovered: and the *Prognosis* must be, that as long as he continues thus weakned by old age, the bad state of the juices and solids, his forces must intirely give way on the approach of winter, unless they be supported with a recruit of new humours. We must therefore endeavour to repair his strength as much as may be by proper food, which he must take in small quantities at a time, else he could not digest it. But as there is so very little blood in the arteries, there is danger of the *Nervous Liquids* failing. Physicians use much to observe this symptom, which is a sign of approaching death; from it proceed, dimness of the eyes, and suffusions; but this has not as yet happened, and he keeps in his senses. His constant waking is now likewise gone off. The in-

dications " we formed last time, were, to strength-  
 " en the *primæ viæ*\*, to comfort his stomach  
 " by a plaster, and give such food as is easily di-  
 " gested with a little wine, in which aromatics  
 " and some distilled waters were infused." By  
 means of which he is at present better, and so  
 we'll repeat the last mixture for the same pur-  
 pose.

October 12. This patient's case is truly  
 surprizing, as now almost the chief symptoms are  
 relieved; for his appetite is returned, his di-  
 gestion is good, and he retains what he eats the  
 due time. Thus by *Nature* assisted with *Art*, we  
 have removed all the chief complaints. The prin-  
 cipal of these was the *Cough*, which proceeded  
 from a collection of heavy matter lodged in the  
*Lungs*, which were so weak as not to expecto-  
 rate nor cast it off. The force of the blood is  
 still so weak, as hardly to be felt, nor does it  
 increase on respiration; if he closes his fist (which  
 generally accelerates the motion of the blood)  
 it is even then scarce sensible. Hence every cir-  
 cumstance is much mended, save the circulation  
 of the blood, which must be imputed to the pre-  
 sent ease and inactivity of the patient. Could he  
 afford it, it would be extremely proper, gently

\* The stomach and intestinal tube.



to shake and exercise his body, with riding on horseback or in a chaise. But as his low circumstances do not admit of this remedy, we will substitute *Friction* in its place. Let then all about his stomach and belly be well rubbed over, with coarse, warm, dry *Flannel*. Says *Hippocrates*, *the part you would nourish, must be moved*; for motion produces heat, which attracts nourishment to the part; and for this purpose nothing is more serviceable than *Friction*, so we recommend it. He ought to indulge in sleeping, and his drink should be strong, with some pure generous wine. The present fine weather and heat of the bed has wonderfully restored him. We ought then to continue the same prescriptions: His tongue which at first was red, smooth and dry, is now moist, and turgid with it's *Papillae*.

*October 16.* I visited this patient yesterday, and could then find the blood returned into the arteries. Ye remember, the pulse was so low as scarce to be felt, but is now pretty strong. He breaths easily and the expectoration is not considerable. The natural heat is equal and as it should be. The tongue has lost its smoothness, and is moist. His urine is now more inclining to a straw-colour; a sign that the natural *Forces* are increased. Thus, ye see gentlemen, this poor man though exhausted to the last degree, is sur-

prisingly recovered, and we have got the better of the bad symptoms, the flux, decay of strength, &c. From the description I at first gave of this case, we can promise, that the patient *may possibly* regain as much strength, as is to be expected from a constitution so much broken with old age, and severe sickness; for there is not the least ground to hope for a renewal of his age or total recovery of his strength, especially at this present time of the year. Let the last mixture, be again ordered for the same intentions.

October 19. THE patient still continues better, and the several functions are now stronger; hence we will renew the last prescription.

October 26. HE was worse t'other day; and whenever it freezes, there must be a considerable alteration in his condition. The principal concern at present, is to fortify his body against the cold; by what remedies, must this be done? where there is no drought, heat or fever, or a putrid *Alcalescency*, there are none more proper than *Antiscorbutics*. Hence,

R. Vin. Gall. alb. unc. viij.

Elixir. Propriat. drach. ij.

Spir. Carminat. Sybo.

Cochlear. ana unc. ss.

M.

Of this mixture, he is to take on an empty stomach, one spoonful thrice a day, viz. an hour before breakfast, dinner and supper.

October

October 30.

WE could not look for better health in so aged a body; the appetite and digestion are good, and if you ask himself, he says *he is perfectly well*. Ye have here in truth a proof of the power of medicines; for we have removed all the bad symptoms.

November 6. THIS poor man did not take our last prescriptions but three or four times, and was tolerably well so long as the weather continued mild and warm; the only care then, was to defend his body against the cold; *but now he falls back*. This is a proper time, gentlemen, to observe *the influence of the weather* on the human body, after the example of our *great master Hippocrates*, especially as it is most manifest when old age and distempers have preceeded.—If the frost continues, this patient must in a few days come to his end. A proper diet, which is cordial and gently exciting is here required.—But if too much, must be improper, as the cough would thence grow worse.—Likewise too watery diet and medicines are here forbidden, as he formerly had a *Dropsy*. Hence we shall order what is mild and gentle.

R. Aq.



R. *Aq. menth.* unc. iv.

*Sp. Carminat. Syko.* unc. j.

*Syrup. Papav. Alb.* unc. ij.

*Tinct. Croci*

*Sacris ana drach. j.*

M.

*Let him take half an ounce of this mixture, every three hours.*

**THIS** remedy can only be useful from its gentle stimulating virtue, and by allaying the cough.

**AFTER** three days, the patient died in a very easy manner.

**HISTORY**

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# HISTORY OF A P A L S Y.

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*September 28, 1737.*

**T**HE patient is of this place, (*Leyden*) aged sixty one years, of a good temperament of body, and subject to few or no disorders in his past life.

IN the month of *September* last year, he was first seized with a most sharp and constant pain in the muscles of the leg and thigh, and this without any apparent cause. He became thence in a manner unfit for muscular motion, which so far increased, that in fourteen or fifteen days from the first attack, he fell into an acute fever. He was then so weakened in the powers of body and mind, that the *Muscles* which serve for

## 16. HISTORY of a PALSY.

moving the *Tarsus*, *Metatarsus* and leg, were absolutely impotent for all sort of motion. These parts are painful whenever he moves, and all below the knee is as cold as if he were a *Corpse*. The parts above are as yet sound. Seven weeks ago he became insensible of where he lay. He knows when he must go to stool, but his water comes away involuntarily. His right side is deprived both of sense and motion, and is all over cold, there has likewise arisen a large *Tumor* at the *Os Sacrum* nigh the loins.—What name must we now give this disorder? doubtless, it is a *Palsy*, or impotency to muscular motion. Our practical physicians observed, that a *Palsy* proceeds, either from the sole defect of muscular motion, and this they term a *Nervous Palsy*; or from the defect of sense or feeling, and this they called, the *greater Nervous Palsy*; and the third species was that in which *heat* was absent, which they looked on as *desperate* or incurable. In this last state the arteries neither receive nor transmit the blood, which is commonly followed with a dropsy.

**DIAGNOSIS.** THIS is then a most compleat *Palsy*, in all the three species, attended with an *Oedematous* swelling from the defect of the juices. The original failing was in the nerves; from the nerves it proceeded to the muscles, and from the muscles it has gone into the



the arteries. But what was the cause of the loss of sense? the great pain which preceded it. Physicians generally are of opinion, that a *Palsy* proceeding from this cause, is incurable. What is pain, in a *physical sense*? it is either a *Tension*, or laceration of the nerves. This (*the Laceration*) is its highest degree. One or other of these two, has been the case with this unhappy man. The disease is going higher, so that the muscle which hinders the flux of the urine is now become *Paralytic*. This is a most melancholy circumstance, for it signifies that the *cause* has now reached the *Spinal Marrow*, which is owing to the contusion of the *Os Sacrum*: It is much to be feared, that it may mount still higher. The swelling is very apparent; but the Palsy coming after, proves all the nerves in the lower parts to be obstructed; hence this man feels exactly such a pain, as we often feel after sitting long, from the compression of a nerve.—With regard to every other circumstance, the patient is in a very proper condition, his tongue is moist, and its colour natural; his pulse, respiration, appetite, &c. are all good. In this respect then, the disease might be considered as a *Sciatic* disorder of the inferior parts. Thus the diagnosticks give us nothing that is favourable in this case, but much otherwise.—Ye have,  
gentlemen,

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gentlemen, a short description of the melancholy disorder under which this poor old man labours.

**PROGNOSTICKS.** It is much to be feared from

all the symptoms, that the *Spinal Marrow* may by degrees at last be weakened and corrupted, and thus the head be seized with a *Parapoplexia*, in which the arteries, receive no vital liquids, nor the veins transmit any to the heart.—We have reason likewise to suspect a *Gangrene* on the tumor, and the lower parts becoming dead.

**INDICATIONS.** THE vital forces must be re-

stored as much as possible; for this end he ought to drink often, but always very little at a time. He may take some small thing once in two or three hours.—I say *small* thing, lest these parts should be oppressed with too much *Chyle*, which are now unfit for transmitting the matter. Are *Frictions* proper in this case? not in the least; for thus by too violent a motion of these parts, in which the matter stagnates for want of circulation, I should bring on a *putrefaction*. What seems then properest in the present circumstances, is to imploy every thing that stops and prevents corruption, nor at the same time excites motion, such as salt, wine and its different preparations. To this end likewise all

*Acids*

# HISTORY of a PALSY. 19

*Acids* conduce very much, particularly vinegar. The applying *Brine*, vinegar and wine to these parts, will be an excellent means to defend them from *putrefaction*. What is to be done with regard to internal applications? are repletives proper? by no means; for they increase already too great the mass. Are not *Stimulating* medicines? no.——From what has been said, the course of diet will easily appear; we cannot do better, than give him every two hours some light food, and small drink, that we may first see, whether these juices point out some new course.

R. *Aq. Stillat. Rosismarin.* lb. ij.

*Acet. Sambuc.* unc. iv.

*Spir. Theriacal.* unc. ij.

*Sal. Ammon.* drach. ij.

Mix all these together for a fomentation, to be applied with cloth from the extremity of the foot, to the middle of the leg.

R. *Aq. Stillat. Foenicul.* lb. j.

*Rob. Sambuc.* unc. ij.

*Spir. Sal. marin.* drach. ss.

*Cochlear.* drach. j.

M.

He is to take of this mixture one spoonful in the two hours.

October 2. HE has still some sort of feeling in the lowest parts, which higher up becomes more acute. The left leg is quite stiff, as if he were dead. There is likewise an *Oedema-*

sous



## 20 HISTORY of a PALSY.

*tous* swelling. The two symptoms which give us at present the most concern, are, the preternatural tumor; and the excoriation and inflammation, by which they denote a succeeding *Gangrene*. This is in truth a most shocking swelling about the *Vertebrae*, and *Os Sacrum*. Could I but move his body and change his situation, there would still be some hope; but so long as he thus lies on his back, the vessels must be suffocated; and from this there must proceed an inflammation, and from it an Excoriation. I lately supposed, that this surprising tumor might communicate with the *Spinal Marrow*, which denotes a succeeding Palsy. The tumor feels soft to the touch. It is probably owing to a stoppage of the *Nervous Fluid*. Ought we to open this tumor? or attempt to bring it to a suppuration? not at all: for it is sufficiently confirmed by experience, that the opening of this sort of tumors accelerates the patient's death. This is likewise evident from the history of the *Spina Bifida*; and when they increase so much as to break, then there runs out a clear water, and the patient dies: if we endeavour to ripen them, it always brings on a putrefaction. From these considerations, I am of opinion, that we must follow the late indications, viz. to comfort and sustain the *Nervous* system, and defend it from the *Gangrene* where,

with

with it is threatned. We have gained at least, this much by our last medicines, that the disorder is no worse. But what is to be done with regard to the melancholy symptom\*.—There can in truth be no remedy, so long as his body remains in that situation: could these parts be kept free from compression for some time, the vessels might expand themselves, and there would be greater hope, that in a short time they might in some measure recover their tone. We shall (which is the next best) apply the *Diapomphol* plaster and order some white lead to be spread on these parts, to take off the inflammation: I have often seen very good success from it. All liquid fomentations are now forbidden, because of the Excoriation which is on the parts. An artificial bath might be used. Let the prescription that was ordered to be taken internally on *Saturday*, be repeated, and

*Take of the Diapomphol Plaster two ounces and apply it.*

R: *Ceruss. pur.* drach. iv.

*Lithargyr. tenuiss. trit.* drach. ij.

*Beat and mix them into an impalpable powder.*

*October 5.* THE heat over all his body, is equal, which is surprising. There are no blisters. We have at least done so much by the

\* *The Gangrene.*

## 22. HISTORY of a PALSY.

the help of our medicines, as to defend the parts from the putrefaction they were inclining to. What we have now most reason to apprehend, is a *Stagnation* of the juices; though the colour does not as yet manifest any corruption. If the scarf-skin should rise up in little blisters, then the part must corrupt, and a *Gangrene* come on. His feeling is not very acute. He has such a pain, as those men have who had a limb cut off; they still feel as it were a pain in their toes. Formerly he was as cold as lead, but now there is every where a natural heat; which is a good sign. The muscles which belong to the loins and *Ossa Innominata*, do still move the leg. The *Tumor* is not in the least diminished, and is surprisingly great. In the first examination, we suspected the original cause of all this disorder, to lye very deep. He had the most racking pains, as the *Periosteum* is extremely sensible, and has no covering in those parts. Hence the vessels being pressed against the bone, there followed a suffocation and inflammation, of which the consequence should be a *Gangrene*.

THE other swelling plainly shows, that there is matter beginning to collect about the ligaments of the *Os sacrum*. Is it derived then, from where the *Medulla Spinalis* is placed? This is not so evident. What shall we say with regard



## HISTORY of a PALSY.

23

to the *Diagnosis*? must we change our former opinion, about the paralytic disorder, and insensibility of the lower parts? this is still certainly the case, though not quite so bad. The *Prognostics* at present are, that the lower parts will turn into a *Gangrene* from the juices stagnating and the natural forces failing there. We have by no means gained so much, as to expect a recovery of those parts. This then is all, we can now say. The indications were, to administer proper food and drink, not such as abounded with much juice, but what was strengthening; and this to be given in small quantities at a time, that so it might afford suitable nourishment to his body and decayed strength.

Should the physician in this case, I mean that of a *Palsy* happening in old age, where all the functions are low and decayed; ought he, I say, to move the nerves briskly? or administer friction?—There are some, who approve of this; I must own, it is far from being my opinion.—If your leg is frozen with cold, and the physician should order the part to be strongly moved, a *Gangrene* would soon ensue. We must therefore in this case prescribe the best diet that the patient's circumstances admit of. What can we do with regard to the excoriation, which greatly pains him?—The best course would be, to have him supported

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supported by leather belts, for two hours a day, in such a manner, as the vessels might not be compressed, but left to play freely. This was once tried, and the consequence was, that the patient had almost dyed being suffocated from the constriction of his breast; so that I dare not attempt it. I have ordered a round bolster to be made and filled with straw, the middle of which is hollow; this will support the parts about the swelling, leaving it uncompressed. Let the last prescriptions be repeated.

October, 9. Y<sup>e</sup> lately examined this patient's condition, which is that of a *Paralytic* disorder from the belly downwards to the toes. The motion which he now makes, is with the muscles which belong to the thigh, not *those* of the foot; for when he moves his leg, the foot is drawn after it: which one might easily mistake in. Our former description and prognosticks are to day confirmed, nor has he undergone any change since the last visit. The animal and vital functions, are as they ought to be, except in those parts; which being compressed and deprived of motion and sense, are in danger of a *Gangrene*; hence we applied *Antiseptics*\*. His legs and feet are swelled (which is the only symptom that is new)

\* Remedies proper against putrefaction.

and

and this from the juices being obstructed by the contusion, which will bring on a *Gangrene*. In those parts, there is little else than the *Tendo Achilles*, hence it is all nervous. The cause of all this, is, his remaining too long in the same situation; thus should one lie long on his back or on one side, these parts would be attacked with a mortification. The swelling about the loins is grown greater, though the *Disorder* itself is rather diminished, and could he lye on his belly, these parts would be relieved.—But this we cannot obtain, on the account of the difficulty in breathing, which would then follow. The *Prognosis* must then be, that so long as he continues in one situation of body, the disorder will increase; and when there shall be no more life in those parts, the mortification will mount higher. What remedy can we then use? change his posture. Thus, when a man has broken his leg, he is confined to bed for six or seven weeks; if the surgeon in that time does not frequently move his body, there will come on a *Gangrene* from the parts being oppressed; hence they frequently turn him and so promote a cure.—The lower parts must be equally supported, that so there may be an even pressure, as much as possible, on the whole body. We shall next apply the plaster of *Dia-*  
*pompbol.* with absorbent powders, and that we



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may make an easy derivation of the juices to those parts, we will venture at this time, gently to move the nerves.

*R. Gums. Annæ. drach. j.*

*Asac. Foetid. gr. xij.*

*Galban.*

*Myrrh. ana drach. ss.*

*Terebinth. gr. xii.*

*M. R. pil. gr. iij. singul.*

He is to take three of these pills, every four hours of the day, drinking after them some water of the following decoction.

*R. Siga. Saturat. Rale.*

*Sassafras ana unc. jss.*

*Glycyrrhiz. unc. j.*

Let these boil together in a close vessel, for the space of a quarter of an hour, and then draw it off for use.

You will easily perceive the intention of this prescription; I have ordered the *Gums* which are of a benign nature and suit extremely well with the nerves and muscles; with these are joined gentle *Aromatics* that we may in some measure excite his forces. We may now venture thus far, as we know what his strength will bear.

October 12. We found no alteration, the last visit, in this patient; so I shall not be troublesome with repetitions. The only new symptom

tum was on the out-side of the heel, where there appears a *Gangrene* caused intirely by compression; and there is great reason to fear its spreading over all the leg. The compression on these parts, deprives them of sense, and thence they become dead. Our chief business was, to keep them from being dryed up by the *Air*, and to defend them from putrefaction. The plaster we applied, had very good effect, for else the *Gangrene* would have spread much farther. If he could keep thus for some time, I believe there might be a change for the better; and with regard to the *Os Sacrum*, I should have hopes of curing it, were it but possible to change his situation. This large swelling rather increases than decreases. The *Paralytic* disorder is then still the same, though there remains a small motion in some of the toes.

October 16. We must pursue the same course, and cause him frequently to move himself, defending the parts from mortification as much as possible. The different preparations of *Lead*, as white lead, &c. are excellent against putrefaction. The parts at present appear very dry; we must therefore moisten them. The *Vital*, *Natural* and *Animal Functions*, are all in good condition. The effect of our last medicines, is, that

our patient is at least in no worse condition, for there was great danger of the *Gangrene's* increasing. We shall therefore continue such medicines, which gently excite, and resist putrefaction.

R. Gum. Ammon. drach. j.

Asas foetid. drach. ss.

Galban. drach. jss.

Campbor. gr. x.

Castor. gr. v.

Croci gr. xv.

Terebinth. drach. ss.

Mix all these together, and make Pills of three grains each. He is to take two of them every three hours, drinking half an ounce after each dose, of the following mixture.

R. Aq. Still. Rosmarin. unc. x:

Sp. Sal. Ammoniac. drach. ij.

Syr. Diac. d. unc. jss.

R. Aq. Stillat. Sambuc. unc. x.

Spir. Matrical. unc. ss.

Sacchar. Saturn. gr. v.

Mix them for a lotion.

Of internal medicines proper against putrefaction, Gum Ammoniac and Galbanum are reckoned the chief: I added a very small quantity of Campbor, which belongs to the same class. The Castor was put in for sake of the Nerves; when we order



## HISTORY of a PALSY. 129

it in so small a proportion, it is usual to join with it, *Sal. Ammoniac.*

*October 19.* THE tumor on the left side is as yet considerable; that on the right is but small. The patient constantly complains of a pain in the higher parts. This symptom I formerly explained to you, from the simile of a Man, who has his leg cut off. I believe there is but little sense remaining in this part. But there is, I now perceive, on the left ankle a small spot which threatens a *Gangrene*. The Nerves below the knees, still preserve some little motion; a proof that he can bear his medicines. Other circumstances, are tolerably well with this unhappy man. The dead weight of the leg upon the heel, prevents the separation of the *Eschar*, which from the compression must consequently mortify. What remedy is then to be here used? these parts ought to be raised, and so the separation promoted and a mortification prevented. All this grievous disorder proceeds from the compression of the nerves, and the blood not being able to make its passage. The *Gangrene* however has not as yet made farther progress. There is no smell nor putrefaction, and these parts are dead solely from the compression. We cannot alter any thing of our last prescriptions.

*October*

October 23.

THIS unhappy man's life is fast a going; it is easy to perceive this from his countenance and habit of body. The places where the *Gangrene* is, are become drier, and two days ago he was seized with an incontinency in retaining the *Fæces*, which (as formerly his water) come away without his knowledge. He has since our last visit, taken much stronger physick than I should have given, which was privately conveyed to him by some of his friends. This is a common practice with those low people. The *Gangrene*, and disease are thence much worse. Our sole hopes would be in keeping the parts free of compression; the manner of doing this, is, I confess, not within my reach. Could I once effect this, there would still be left us some hopes, as there is no bad smell, but only a deadness of the parts. I ordered plasters of oil, lead, &c. to be applied; but all in vain. The disease, and particularly his situation, resist all our intentions. I shall now prescribe something to recruit his strength.

# HISTORY of a PALSY. 31

R. *Aq. Stillar. Mentib. lb. j.*  
*Spir. Vit. Martialis unc. j.*  
*Tinct. Lign. Sassafras drach. vj.*  
*Aq. Cephalic. unc. jss.*

Let him take of this mixture one spoonful, every hour and at  
 half.

October 16. Ye see, gentlemen, how,  
 notwithstanding all our endeavours, the putre-  
 faction now appears. There is no dropsy on  
 the upper parts of his body. He is now con-  
 vulsed, which is one effect of the mortification.  
 There is no inflammation on the parts about the  
*Gangrene*, nor any suppuration. In this case we  
 must not regard the common rules which re-  
 commend *Emollients*, for the swelling would  
 thence corrupt, and all turn into putrefaction;  
 the parts are to be defended in the manner men-  
 tioned, when we formed the first indications.  
 There is on the loins, a black slough which lies  
 very deep, and has the plain marks of a mor-  
 tification. Hence we ought to add something  
 new, to stop its progress. *Myrris* powdered and  
 mixed with *Basilicum* in a small quantity, is an  
 admirable *Antiseptic* medicine. It may be in-  
 quired, if the parts about the heel ought to be  
 scarified? but there is hardly any substance there.  
 Were it not for the *Gangrene*, we might attempt  
 to



to bring the part to a suppuration. Are these parts to be covered with a poultice? as they are so full of humours, it is to be feared they might incline to a suppuration. We must therefore principally take care, to keep the *Eschar* moist; and for this purpose we must use *Basilicum*, the *Golden* or *Poplar* ointment. At the upper parts, ye perceive a great change; for there the *Eschar* has reached even the interstices of the *Vertebrae*. In these circumstances, *Myrrhe* or *Aloe* mixed with spirit of wine, are extremely proper. Ye will find, these balsamic remedies more effectual, when given in a solid, than liquid form; I am very sensible there are several who differ from me in this point. With regard to internal medicines, the last are to be repeated.

October 30. HERE is an inflammation of the *Penis* from the alcalescent urine, which comes away involuntarily, and by being kept, is become acrid: There is danger of this part likewise being attacked with a mortification. Our last prescriptions have had a very good effect; for the blackness is now wore off, and the *Eschar* become moist. His excrements continue to come away without his knowledge, and there is a very great dryness on the *Eschar* at the heel; and though we cannot in the least perceive any moistness

moistness thereabouts, yet the *Gangrene* in that part has made no progress, which is solely owing to our medicines. I shall not repeat what I have often told you, with regard to this patient. Ye understand, I presume, the indications as well as the remedies used. All these dismal symptoms proceed from that one cause, *viz.* impotency to muscular motion. The *Eschars* now becoming deeper, signifies that the disorder has reached the bones. This must be attributed to the continual lying on his back, which suffocates the parts and forces the mortification inwards; than which nothing can be worse.

*Diagnosis.* THE *Gangrene* is rather diminished, and those parts which were formerly dry, have now got some moisture. This, ye know, is a good sign, as it shows there is as yet some vital force. Formerly there was nothing but blackness and wrinkles, and then *Antiseptics* were indicated.

BUT what is the nature of the tumor of the genitals? for ye observe the teguments of the *Penis* and *Scrotum* vastly swelled. This proceeds from the *Cellular membrane*, which is affected with the acrimony of the urine; and from the pressure on the veins. Hence this member is swelled and inflamed. There is on the prepuce

T

an

### 34 HISTORY of a PALSY.

an *Epiphymosis*. The famous *Rhuyfch* taught us from his preparations, that you may easily blow up the whole *Penis* and *Scrotum*, through a small hole pricked in the skin. But this is no such swelling, but as I just now said, it is an *Epiphymosis* caused by the acrimony of the urine. These parts are extremely tender, and may be distended till they burst.

THE indication therefore must be, to prevent a *Gangrene* here; and how is this to be done? By hindring these parts from being corroded.—But we cannot stop the flux of his urine.—All then in our power, is to anoint the part, with *Nutritum*, *Poplar* ointment and *white lead*, that so it may be defended from the *Urine*, which does not easily mix with *Oil*. It is not proper to apply plasters, because they stop perspiration and suffocate the part.

R. *Unguent. Nutrit.*

*Popul. ana* unc. j,

*Ceruss. Subtiliss.* drach. ij.

M.

November 2. THE *Eschar* on the heel, is extremely dry, for there is little or no motion in that part. All the other symptoms are as formerly. I am still of opinion, that could I find



## HISTORY of a PALSY. 35

I find a way to support his body freely for four days, so as perspiration might not be obstructed, he would change for the better. This is the sole remedy by which we might for some short time, stop the progress of the disease, that is of the mortification. We must repeat both the internal and external Medicines, for I know of none better.

November 6. Ye see now, gentlemen, how much the *Gangrene* has prevailed in a few days; for it has now reached the higher parts, which are all motionless, the mouth, eyes, &c. There is no part in this man properly alive, save the *Heart* and *Lungs*. Hence the blood begins to be collected in the lungs, as it cannot pass to the left ventricle.—He will be suffocated, and die in a short while; for what blood remains now in his veins, is furnished from the heart, which shakes and beats irregularly.

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